

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

CHCC abolition bill shelved

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

After a "fruitful" meeting between House vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. management last Thursday, the bill to abolish the corporation and its newly established governing board has been shelved.

Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* last week that, after a meeting between her, Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, and other CHCC management officials, it was agreed to shelve House Bill 20-149.

In a statement, Maratita said she was pleased that the meeting was able to address challenges of both CHCC patients and CHCC employees.

See CHCC on Page 4



BOARD MEETING

Upgrading the internet system in public schools was on the agenda at Wednesday's Board of Education meeting on Capitol Hill.

See story on Page 6

BEA CABRERA

Bill for govt to absorb NMTI OK'd

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives has approved a measure to, in effect,

place the Northern Marianas Trades Institute under the CNMI government to allow it to be funded by the government annually.

In a session last Jan. 31, 2018,

House lawmakers unanimously passed Senate Bill 20-21 to convert NMTI from a private to a public institution, effectively allowing it to re-

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INSIDE



NATION

A father of three daughters tries to attack former sports doctor Larry Nassar.

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ASIA

The Philippines say the deaths of three children may be linked to dengue vaccinations.

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LIFE & STYLE

Uma Thurman accuses movie mogul Harvey Weinstein of forcing himself on her.

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Local

DPL sues; leased public land allegedly rented out to families

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands is suing a company and its owner for allegedly breaching a settlement agree-

ment by, among other things, renting out a leased public land in Chalan Kanoa to several families.

DPL, through assistant attorney general Matthew J. Pugh, is suing M.D.A. Enter-

prises and its president, Mohammed Abul Bashar.

DPL asked the Superior Court to hold M.D.A. Enterprises and Bashar liable to pay damages for unpaid rent owed DPL.

DPL is also demanding

payment for attorneys' fees and court costs.

DPL wants M.D.A. Enterprises and Bashar and all other occupying the public land to vacate the premises and remove all personal property.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from Bashar's lawyer.

According to Pugh in the complaint, DPL issued an encroachment notice to Antonetta Rios-Bashar last June 4, 2007, for using and renting out encroaching structures on public lands. DPL issued a final notice to vacate to Antonetta Rios-Bashar on July 23, 2007.

Bashar then applied to lease

portions of a land in Chalan Kanoa, but the application was incomplete.

On Dec. 21, 2011, DPL gave M.D.A. Enterprises conditional approval to lease the Chalan Kanoa land on the condition that the application deficiencies be cured within 60 days.

In line with this, DPL gave M.D.A. Enterprises temporary authorization over the lot, with restrictions such as prohibition against residing on the premises and conducting commercial activities there and a requirement to obtain liability insurance.

On March 7, 2013, DPL gave defendants additional 90-day extension to come into

compliance, but they allegedly did not comply.

In 2016, DPL sued defendants. M.D.A. also sued DPL and various DPL officials, requesting injunctive relief related to the company's use of public lands.

In September 2016, DPL and M.D.A. and Bashar entered into a settlement, settling both cases.

The settlement required, among other things, for M.D.A. to pay the government \$10,000.

M.D.A. paid the amount.

Pugh said M.D.A. has made payments to DPL totaling \$3,765 toward the promissory note.

DPL provided M.D.A. with written notice of missed payments, but the company is allegedly in default on the promissory note and the entire unpaid balance is due.

M.D.A. has made rent payments to DPL totaling \$2,383. The company allegedly attempted to make a rent payment of \$1,380, but the check was returned for insufficient funds.

Last October, DPL issued a notice to vacate the land to M.D.A. and Bashar.

Last Nov. 7, DPL staff inspected the site to determine if M.D.A. had vacated the premises.

Pugh said M.D.A. and Bashar were renting out the premises as housing for about 17 tenants.

Last Dec. 15, DPL secured the premises by installing locks and blocking access to the buildings. Later in the day, Pugh said, Bashar went to DPL and provided a check for \$10,000.

The check, however, had been returned for insufficient funds.

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Tourism Topics

A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

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The Marianas Visitors Authority is proud to be a major sponsor of the Lunar New Year Party in The Marianas celebration on Feb. 16-17 from 5-10 p.m. at Garapan Fishing Base.

The festival welcomes all cultures in The Marianas who use the lunar calendar for a multi-cultural celebration, providing residents and visitors a learning experience on the use of the lunar calendar for celestial navigation, fishing, farming, and more. The event is now accepting registration for The Marianas Barkus Dog Parade, as well as food/beverage and snack vendors.

The Marianas' Barkus Dog Parade welcomes owners to bring their best dressed dogs (and humans!) for a parade from Carolinian Affairs Office parking grounds to the party venue at Garapan Fishing Base. The cost is a \$5 minimum donation, and all proceeds will be donated to the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program/Animal Shelter. DFS will also match all registration donations in support of the mayor's animal shelter. To register in advance or for more information, visit marianasbarkusdogparade.com.

Separately, applications for food/snack and beverage vendors are now available from the Commonwealth Council of Arts & Culture (CCAC). Fees are \$20 for application, \$200 for food/snack vendors (10 maximum) and \$600 for beverage vendors (4 maximum). Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, and vendors must comply with all regulatory requirements. For more information or an application, contact CCAC at 670.322.9982.

Lunar New Year Party
in the Marianas

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Woman's death after being hit by minivan prompts suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The husband and parents of a woman who was killed after being hit by a minivan as she was crossing Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in front of Twins Supermarket in Lower Dandan last Dec. 18 are suing.

Bernardino Lozada filed the lawsuit, representing his dead wife, Angelita D. Lozada, and her parents, Juanito and Jovita Dela Cruz.

Lozada and the Dela Cruzes, through counsel David G. Banes, are suing the driver, Guo Guozhen, and his employer.

The Lozadas and Dela Cruzes are going to amend the complaint once they are able to identify Guozhen's employer.

The Lozadas and Dela Cruzes asked the Superior Court to hold the defendants liable to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

According to a police report, the 48-year-old victim, a Filipino national, was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center on Dec. 18, 2017.

Police said the driver stated that he did not see the victim, who was not in a designated crosswalk. Investigators have ruled out alcohol as a factor in the accident.

Banes stated in the com-

plaint that Mrs. Lozada was crossing Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in front of Twins Supermarket at 5:20am when a white 2016 Honda

Odyssey driven by Guozhen was on the eastbound lane to drop off two customers at the airport. The car suddenly hit Mrs. Lozada, resulting in her

fatal injuries. An ambulance brought her to the Commonwealth Health Center, where she was pronounced dead that same day.

Banes said Guozhen was speeding as he was in a hurry to drop off the two customers at the airport.

Banes said Guozhen's gross negligence and reckless disregard for Mrs. Lozada's safety

caused her death.

Banes said Guozhen's employer is liable because at the time Mrs. Lozada was struck, Guozhen was driving during the course and scope of his employment.

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February 1 - 14

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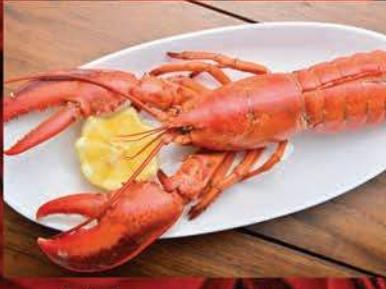
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Mesngon eyes Rota mayoralty seat

Sen. Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota) announced last Friday his intent to run as mayor of Rota as an independent candidate.

Mesngon, who reportedly submitted his intent to run as Rota mayor to the CNMI

Republican Party back in November 2017, told *Saipan Tribune* that he intends to run for the position even if the party does not support his intent.

The senator said he was “disappointed” with his party

for not responding to his intent to run for election.

“At this point I am not going to keep waiting for [their response] because my family is waiting on me. Right now, [I am] leaning toward running

as an independent,” he said.

“I am a really strong advocate of the Republican Party, but there is no approval yet and no endorsement, so...I made my decision,” he added.

According to Mesngon, the

CNMI Republican Party is endorsing the current Rota mayor, Efraim Atalig, for the Rota mayor’s seat, but did not indicate who the party was endorsing for the Rota senator’s seat.

“It’s been my passion to run for Rota mayor,” he said, adding that he ran for Rota mayor in 2009 but lost. In 2014, due

to a compromise within the CNMI Republican Party, he ran for senator representing Rota for the 19th Legislature and won.

Mesngon served as chief of staff for the Rota Municipal Council for four years prior to representing Rota in the Senate. (*Erwin Encinare*)

Sr. Isabel Seman is Night of the Knights awardee

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Sr. Isabel Seman of the Mercedarian Mission of Berriz was honored last Saturday as an alumna of Mount Carmel School during the school’s 20th Night of Knights celebration at the Magellan Ballroom of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Known more as Sister Isabel, Seman belongs to the Class 1963 and was part of the first batch of students when Mt. Carmel School opened on Saipan in 1952.

Seman is known an educational leader throughout Micronesia. She spent over a decade in Rome as the vicar general for the Mercedarian Sisters, which is considered the

highest leadership position. Her awarding is fitting as this year celebrates the 90th year that the Mercedarian Mission of Berriz sisters came to Saipan.

“I am very emotional, deeply grateful and proud to be a Mount Carmel alumna from first grade to 12th grade...I was born and raised on Saipan and I am deeply humbled by the

people of Saipan and all who make Saipan their home. Your unfailing support and encouragement, care, and love have accompanied us and we are confident that we will go on beyond this 90 years,” she said.

“People of Saipan, this award is [for] you. ...This year, the Catholic Schools’ Week theme is learn, serve,



Sister Isabel Seman, Night of the Knights awardee for 2018, receives the award from MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero and MCS Alumni Association president Charles Cepeda at the 20th Night of the Knights last Saturday at the Magellan Ballroom of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

BEA CABRERA

MBA

From Page 1

tors dominated the contest with a whooping final score of 845.

The MBA team consisted of team members Deancey Chua, Lyndon Digno, Keith Villasin, Sebastian Bernardo, and team leader Joannah Jimenez.

MBA instructor/coach Manuel Castro attributed the MBA team’s feat on spiritual guidance, the prayers of their minister, and parental support.

Castro said he prepared the

students for the competition with loads of studying, not just for his students but also for himself. “I prepared a lot of materials. I study for myself and then I give it to my students,” he said.

The fact that MBA did so well last year only added to the pressure on Castro and his team to do equally well this year. Castro acknowledged that it was not easy. It took about a month of preparation and it even took unpaid weekend study sessions.

According to Jimenez, she and her team worked really hard and practiced everyday

after classes and during the weekends.

Although it was hard to balance practice, school-work, and their social lives, Jimenez is proud of how the hard work paid off.

Coming in at second place was Saipan International School with 800 points. The SIS competitors were Anastasia Shamaeva, Mylan Goodwin, Christina Kim, Hyeon Jae Park, and Hyeonbin Jeong.

In third place with 760 points was Grace Christian Academy. The competitors were Richard Villagomez, Susan Villagomez,

Gabriel Retardo, Miku Kimura, and James Keaton.

The fourth place winner was Agape Christian School with a score of 725. The competitors were Silas Xu, Kevin Tang, Kyla Carino, and Victoria Ancheta.

The eight other competing schools were Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Dandan Middle School, San Antonio Middle School, Green Meadow School, Hopwood Middle School, Mount Carmel School, Northern Marianas International School, and Saipan Community School.

that this 15-cent price increase is a lot for a student like him.

“We just feel helpless because we know these things are inevitable and there is nothing we can do. As a student, I will have to make more adjustments in my gas usage every week,” he said.

According to previous articles on the *Saipan Tribune*,

gas prices were \$3.48 in early 2016 and continued to increase until it reached \$3.93 in December 2016. A decrease of 10 cents was seen in June of 2017 before it increased by 10 cents again in October 2017.

A 13-cent increase was implemented on Jan. 8, 2018, raising gas prices from \$3.95 to \$4.08 per gallon. (*Bea Cabrera*)

GAS

From Page 1

Kiya, the announcement came during the day and not a lot of people became immediately aware of the increase.

“We changed our signage on gas prices and that was the only time people knew of

the increase. Many of them did not come to load gas right away because they weren’t prepared for it,” he said.

“Usually, after the announcement of gas price increase, our station is filled with cars trying to load gas. The recent price increase took time to sink in with the motorists,” he added.

Greg from Chalan Kiya said

CNMI Republican Party is endorsing the current Rota mayor, Efraim Atalig, for the Rota mayor’s seat, but did not indicate who the party was endorsing for the Rota senator’s seat.

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to a compromise within the CNMI Republican Party, he ran for senator representing Rota for the 19th Legislature and won.

Mesngon served as chief of staff for the Rota Municipal Council for four years prior to representing Rota in the Senate. (*Erwin Encinare*)

awardee, the night was the culminating event for Catholic’s School Week at Mount Carmel School.

The Best Class of 2018 award was given to Batch 1990, the Friend of the Alumni award went to Luis Camacho, the 2018 Legacy award went to Mary Soledad Camacho-Castro, and the Millennial Falcon Award went to Robert Bernard C. Travella.

BILL

From Page 1

ceive general fund allocations.

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), who authored the bill, expressed gratitude to the House for passing his bill, with hopes that the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would support the measure.

Part of Quitugua’s bill prohibits construction workers from using the worker slots under the CW program, among many others. Similar language is contained in U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s (R-AK) S. 2325, which extends the CW program, the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, up to 2029.

“Such action by the CNMI 20th Legislature assures that, with the passage of Sen. Murkowski’s bill, the CNMI will live up to its obligations in the training and employment of U.S. workers, not only for a short term but a long term

solution,” Quitugua said.

In an interview, NMTI board chair John O. Gonzales said that one of the plans of the NMTI board is to secure an agreement with the CNMI government to “prioritize workforce development.”

“We felt one of the ways to do that was to work collaboratively with the Legislature and...make [NMTI] a public corporation,” he said.

According to NMTI president Agnes McPhetres, the passage of S.B. 20-21 is a “real plus for the Commonwealth” because, if enacted, NMTI would be the first technical institution in the CNMI.

“Every state and entities in the Pacific has a [separate institution for trades] because the mission, goal, and curriculum set up is completely different from academics,” she said.

NMTI is home to nearly 600 students.

Quitugua’s bill now heads to the desk of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

CHCC

From Page 1

“[Muña and I] both share the ultimate goal of enhancing healthcare services to all CNMI residents and have pledged to continue a working dialogue to achieve this goal,” Maratita said, adding that she looks forward to more discussions to “ensure that the people we serve receive the quality healthcare they deserve.”

Muña did not immediately respond when asked to comment.

In introducing the bill to abolish CHCC as a corporation and its governing board as well as reinstate the Department of Public Health under the Governor’s Office, Maratita had blamed CHCC’s alleged failure to comply with reporting requests as well as CHCC’s reported lack of transparency.

Last Feb. 1, Gov. Ralph

DLG Torres wrote to Maratita, urging her to defer action on the bill to give the governing board some time to exercise its authority to fulfill the “shared goal of improving health outcomes and accountability” for CHCC.

“I have great faith in [the CHCC board] to undertake a thorough and diligent review of the management of the hospital and will act upon their decisions in a manner that will safeguard the day-to-day operations of the corporation,” he had said.

In a statement last Jan. 26, 2018, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) warned of the possible consequences on CNMI healthcare if there were sudden changes to its structure.

“...We must know what it is that we want or what performances are lacking so we can know how to better organize or which person can better manage or run our hospital, all for accountability and transparency,” he said.

Audit predicts \$24.7M in DPL revenue until FY 2040

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

An audit on the Department of Public Land's financials predicts that the agency would accumulate over \$24.7 million in lease income from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2040.

Although mere predictions, the audit released by the Office of the Public Auditor last Tuesday also stated that this amount represents the minimum lease income that the department could obtain from its authorized leases.

By the end of fiscal years 2015 and 2016, DPL raked in over \$5.8 million and over \$6.9 million in lease income respectively.

For fiscal years 2017 to fiscal years 2021, the audit report predicts that, at a minimum, DPL would have at least a little over \$9.8 million in lease income, while the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2040, DPL would have at least over \$14.9 million in lease income.

DPL, however, still has debts owed the Commonwealth government because, since fiscal year 2008, DPL had to reimburse the CNMI government for expenses paid on behalf of the department.

The payment, which is disbursed to the Department of

Finance, varies per fiscal year. For fiscal year 2016 and

fiscal year 2015, DPL paid Finance over \$2.7 million and over \$3.2 million respectively.

The amounts were not enough, according to the audit,

as the DPL still owes the CNMI government a combined \$2.2 million for "DPL expenses paid by the CNMI which have not been reimbursed."

CNMI gets more time to file notice of ATP for \$5M for CUC oil projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter approved Wednesday last week a request by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI and U.S. governments to file with the court the CNMI government's notice of authorization to proceed for \$5 million funding for some CUC projects.

Carter allowed the CNMI to file its notice of authorization to proceed for \$5 million funding for stipulated order number 2 projects on or before March 1, 2018.

SO2 focuses on oil issues and also applies to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

The deadline for the CNMI to file its notice of authorization to proceed was supposedly last Thursday. The CNMI

and U.S. governments and CUC agreed to extend the Feb. 1 deadline to March 1.

Pursuant to court's order, the CNMI must deposit \$5 million into the court's registry or file a notice with the court of the Department of the Interior's authorization to proceed for funding SO2 projects by Feb. 1.

The parties said the delay in the authorization to proceed is not only due to the fact that

the Office of Insular Affairs at DOI is currently operating on a continuing resolution through Feb. 8, 2018, but also recent new staff assignments that have occurred within the last two months on the administration of grant funding at the OIA.

The parties said notwithstanding the efforts of the CNMI to confirm with OIA, it is clear that an ATP will not be released by Feb. 1.

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PSS to upgrade internet connection

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System wants a faster and reliable internet service for its students.

The amount needed to upgrade the system's internet connection is \$500,000, according to Tim Thornburgh, federal programs officer of PSS.

"We have a consolidated grant carryover of \$600,000 from the previous year and \$500,000 of that will be used for this needed upgrade," he said in his report to the PSS

board last Wednesday.

Thornburgh said that PSS currently has 17,700 devices being used in the school system. "With the upgrade we can easily accommodate 25,000 devices" he added.

According to Thornburgh, the current infrastructure does not allow efficient access to the internet.

"If you are at the end of the line, say, you're at Tinian Elementary School, and the line goes first to the high school, you're not going to have a lot of bandwidth," he said.

"A system upgrade is definitely needed if we want uninterrupted online education available to the students," he added.

Thornburgh said the upgrade is a two-part process.

"First, we do an RFP and bring the experts in to walk the whole system with their guys and point out what we need to target, the routers and switches that have to be in place," he said.

"The second part is invitation for bid for the hardware to upgrade so we can easily accommodate 25,000 devices,"

he added.

According to Thornburgh, this proposal increases PSS' investment in technology from \$4.3 million to \$4.8 million.

"Part 1 will probably be 50-60K and Part 2 for hardware is where the big costs are. We have to do Part 1 to know approximately what Part 2 should cost. We already submitted this to the Department of Education [and] they told us basically that they are fine with this," he said.

"The approval will come once the letter is signed by the

[board] chair and the [education] commissioner," he added.

Board of Education member Herman Guerrero said the poor internet in schools have always been remedied with Band-Aid solutions.

"We've just been installing additional Wi-Fi or direct line in the schools. We need to have better grasp of it systematically on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. My experience was all the kids are waiting to get internet, then it drops and one gets in and this is not the way it should work because the

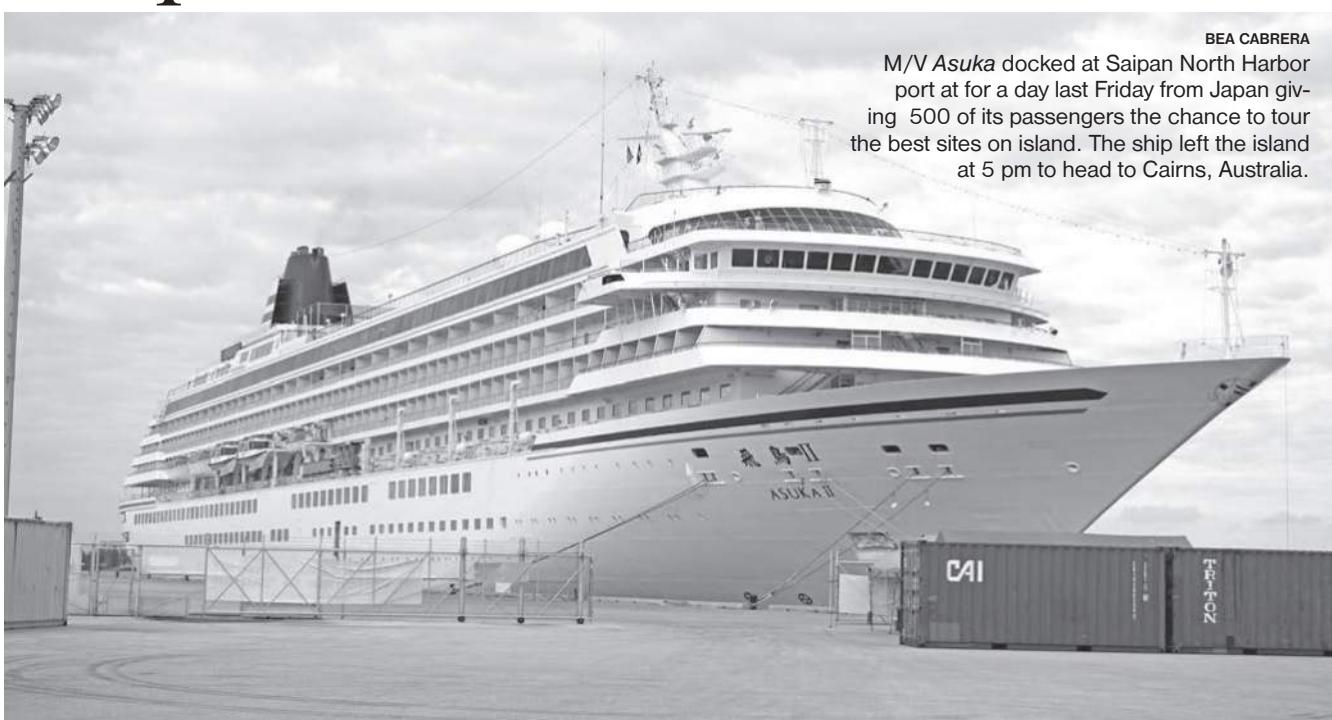
kids are not learning this way," he said.

BOE member Florine Hofsneider shared Guerrero's sentiments, adding that parents should be looped in these plans.

"I know parents want everything to happen yesterday so we need to keep them in the know so that they become more understanding," she said.

The board later agreed to publish plans for the system upgrade in the school paper for teachers, students, parents, and community to read.

'Saipan is a cruise tour destination'



By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Saipan is fast becoming a pop-

ular destination among cruise ships that carry hundreds of tourists. One of them, M/V *Asuka*, was on island for a

whole day last Friday.

The cruise ship of the NYK Cruise Line came from Kobe, Japan, and passed by Saipan be-

fore heading to Cairns, Australia. M/V *Asuka* arrived on Saipan at around 7am last Friday and docked at the North

Harbor. The cruise ship carried 500 crew and 500 passengers on board.

According to Gordon Mariano, managing director for Pacific Development Inc., the ship's arrival was expected.

"The passengers have a fixed itinerary for the day tour and we have them moving pretty much with many options of tours. We have been working with the organization of the ship that flew our staff over to Japan," she said.

"Marianas Visitors Authority Japan was aware of what we were doing while in Japan and discussions were made. We are glad that they decided that Saipan is their chosen destination twice—one last December and February this year," she added.

As the ship's land agent, PDI has arranged it so that everything Saipan is known for is included in the day trip tours—Managaha, submarine tour, trekking, and many others.

"We pray for more trips like this. We have a very beautiful destination to offer. And I hope they stay for longer days in the future," he added.

Special projects coordinator Mary Tenorio of Saipan Shipping said that M/V *Asuka* has

been making Saipan a regular destination.

"M/V *Asuka* has been coming to Saipan yearly since over five years ago and in their many tour routes Saipan is included, which is usually a monthlong trip and, one day in the tour, they come to Saipan," she said.

"They also have the New Year Saipan/Guam tour. We are hoping that they stay for more than a day on island in the future. That is something we would have to inquire with the ship as they have a lot of other ports to stop at," she added.

Tenorio said that Saipan Shipping is the agent for NYK Cruise Line.

"We handle the logistics, getting the provisions and ensuring that all government agencies affiliated with the clearance process are taken cared of and coordinated once the ship arrives," she said.

"Saipan is a beautiful place. We invite other cruise lines as we have a whole bunch of shipping agencies that tourists can work with. We hope that in the future we see more cruise lines that would stop on Saipan and that would probably prompt us to expand the port in some way in regards to having a cruise terminal itself," she added.

MHS group to represent NMI in Guam

The MHS Arc Architects will be representing the CNMI at the annual Green Dream Competition hosted by the University of Guam's Center of Island Sustainability.

The organization has already competed at the Guam contest for three consecutive years. Having won the championship in 2016 and the Viewer's Choice Award in 2017, the team hopes to win the title again this year.

The team is currently made up of five individuals who all attend Marianas High School: Jewel Cubangbang, Ian Cata-luna, Michaela Gatdula, Marie Manebo, and Hajin Oh.

In addition to their active participation in the program, their efforts are also seen in the school's other activities,



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PO. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-65001 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-18
SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.
"AMBASSADOR SERVICES FOR AUTOMATED PASSPORT CONTROLS"
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JANUARY 19, 2018.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND THREE (3) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **CONFIDENTIAL "AMBASSADOR SERVICES FOR AUTOMATED PASSPORT CONTROLS (RFP-003-18)"**. PROPOSERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS PROPOSAL. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE CPA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR OF THE ARRIVAL TERMINAL BY FEBRUARY 9, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M..

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/S/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: JANUARY 19, 2018

ROSE MARIE A. GUILLERMO
P.O. BOX 520240 TINIAN, MP 96952
(670) 433-0034 / (670) 783-6346

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROSE MARIE A.) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
GUILLERMO) NO. 17-0333
Petitioner,
vs.) SUMMONS FOR
RUBEN GUILLERMO) PUBLICATION
Respondent.)

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 520240, Tinian, MP 96952 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2018.
/s/
Clerk of Court

Florentina M. Reyes
P.O. Box 504142 CK,
Saipan MP 96950
670-234-1871

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER)
OF THE PETITION TO)
APPOINT GENERAL)
GUARDIANSHIP FOR:) FCD GU CIVIL
W.J.R.W. III) ACTION NO.
(March 22, 2016)) 18-0036
MINOR CHILD)
By:) NOTICE OF
FLORENTINA M. HEARING
REYES)
PETITIONERS)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE-ENTITLED MATTER IS SET FOR A HEARING ON FEB. 26, 2018 AT 9:00 A.M. IN COURTROOM 217A, BEFORE HONORABLE JUDGE TERESA K. KIM-TENORIO.

DATED THIS 26TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2018.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
CLERK OF COURT

/S/ BY: DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Miles Borja wins SCS geographic bee

A seventh-grade student at Saipan Community School, Miles Borja, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Jan. 26, 2018, and a chance at a \$50,000 college scholarship.

The school bee, at which students answered questions on geography, was the first round in the 30th Annual National Geographic Bee, a geography competition designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world.

In the SCS school competition were 10 students competing who won their classroom Geography Bee rounds including Soarin Oh and Alfred Baek of the fourth grade; Sophie Brasuell and Jason Kim of the fifth grade; sixth graders: Chris Hardt and Isaiah Alekseenko; seventh graders One An and Miles Borja; and eighth graders Seung Jin Paik and Paul Ham.

Thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories are participating in the 2018 National Geographic Bee.

The school champions, including Borja, will then take a qualifying test. Up to 100 of the top scorers on that test in each state will then be eligible to compete in their state bee on April 6, 2018.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state winners to participate in the bee national championship rounds on May 20-23, 2018. The first-place national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the society, including a subscription to *National Geographic* magazine, and an all-expenses-paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the new National Geographic *Endeavour II*. Travel for the trip is provided by Lindblad Expeditions and *National Geographic*. Second- and third-place finishers will receive \$25,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships, respectively.

National Geographic will air the final round of the National Geographic Bee Championship in May 2018. It will air later on public television stations.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the National Geographic Bee. The National Geographic Society developed the National Geographic Bee in 1989 in response to concern about the lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States. Over three decades, 1,583 state champions have traveled to D.C. to participate in the finals and more than \$1.5 million in college scholarship money



Miles Borja, a seventh-grade student at Saipan Community School, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Jan. 26, 2018.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

has been awarded to winners of the competition by the National Geographic Society.

Everyone can test their geography knowledge with the exciting Geo Bee Quiz, an online geography quiz at www.nationalgeographic.org/bee/study/quiz, which poses 10 new questions a day and with the National Geographic Geo Quiz Alexa skill, which releases six new questions a day. In honor of the 30th anniversary of the bee, National Geographic has also published an

updated National Geographic Bee book: *How to Ace the National Geographic Bee: Official Study Guide, 5th Edition*, by Stephen Cunha.

The National Geographic Society is a leading nonprofit that invests in bold people and transformative ideas in the fields of exploration, scientific research, storytelling and education. Through our grants and programs, we aspire to create a community of change, ad-

vancing key insights about our planet and probing some of the most pressing scientific questions of our time while ensuring that the next generation is armed with geographic knowledge and global understanding. Our goal is measurable impact: furthering exploration and educating people around the world to inspire solutions for the greater good. For more information, visit www.nationalgeographic.org. (PR)

ARMATECH



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Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

Dr. Dennis Williams, a renowned eye surgeon, continues the tradition of excellence at Marianas Eye Institute.

- Received a CNMI House Resolution, "for conducting the CNMI's first Corneal Transplant"
- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

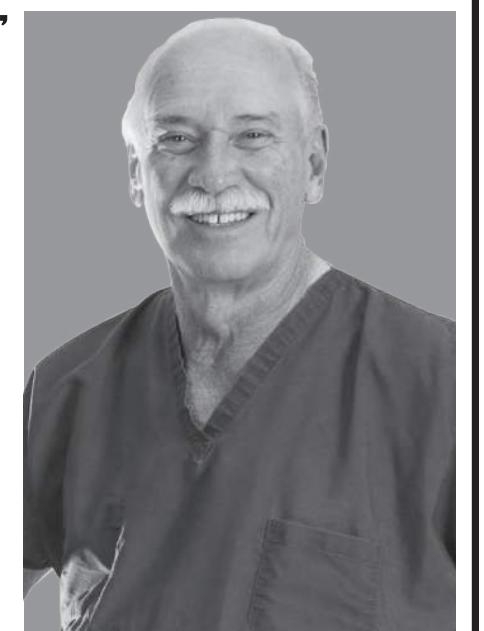
Prior Experience:

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

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- Shut off the cylinder valve before disconnecting the bottle from the BBQ.
- Always keep cool and away from flames, sparks and heat.
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Map:

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SEASIDE GRILL

Exclusive Valentine's Day Special



Say it with love... this February 14th

A Romantic evening for **2**

Featuring Chef Evangelista's five-course dinner delight

To welcome the romantic couple,
a cocktail awaits to celebrate their evening of love
with a glass of Bottega Petalo
& a stem of rose for the lovely lady

\$85 per person



Reservations required. Please call (670) 237-5126.
Local resident discounts apply with valid CNMI ID.

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Rudnytsky back for another visit, concert



Internationally renowned classical pianist, Roman Rudnytsky, is returning to Saipan for another performance.

Internationally renowned classical pianist, Roman Rudnytsky, is returning to Saipan for another performance.

The Friends of the Arts will sponsor two special concerts during Rudnytsky's visit—a rare opportunity to listen to live classical music, played by a master pianist.

Rudnytsky will be performing a special *Magic of Love* Concert on Valentine's Day evening, Feb. 14, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

This concert of romantic music is open to the public at the cost of \$8 for adult FOA members, \$10 for adult non-members, \$5 for students and children over age 4.

Special treats will be provided. Doors will open at 6:30pm and the concert will begin at 7pm.

The second concert will be on Saturday, Feb. 17, also at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

This performance will also be open to the public at the cost of \$6 for adult FOA members, \$8 for adult non-members, \$4 for students and children over age 4. The doors will open at 6:30pm and the concert will begin at 7pm.

The two programs will include differing selections each night from such classical masters as Chopin, Albeniz, Beethoven, Debussy, Liszt, Rachmaninoff and other musical greats, to include Debussy's *Clair de Lune*.

begin at 7pm. Reservations can be made by contacting Frank Gibson by phone or text at 287-7476 or by e-mail at f.gibson@yahoo.com.

Young magician Neil Fama, grand prize winner at this year's Bridge Capital's CNMI's Got Talent, will entertain during intermission with a demonstration of his talent.

Rudnytsky is an internationally active concert pianist of Ukrainian background whose frequent performances take him all over the world—to every continent and places in-between. In addition to performances in capital cities and important musical centers, he often plays in places away from the musical mainstream, bringing the world and pleasure of classical music to audiences which seldom experience this type of music in live performance. He has received much ac-

claim in the world's press and many repeat invitations. A graduate of the Juilliard School in New York, he also did additional studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland and at master classes in Austria (the "Mozarteum") and Italy. Since 1972, Rudnytsky has been a member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. He is a recipient of that institution's "Distinguished Professor Award" in recogni-

tion of his concert activities. He previously served on the piano faculties of the Indiana University School of Music (Bloomington, Indiana) and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory, in addition to being artist-in-residence at two Australian universities.

During his two week visit to Saipan, he will travel to many of the CNMI schools, playing and discussing music with the students.

This is Rudnytsky's ninth trip to the CNMI.

Rudnytsky travels at his own expense and donates his time to the community. The Friends of the Arts, with the help of sponsors from the community, have hosted Rudnytsky's stay.

This year's sponsors are the Office of the Governor, Bridge Capital, IT&E, Drs. Edgar and Susan Tudor, Atkins-Kroll Toyota, Hertz Car Rental, Brabu Pharmacy, Triple J Saipan, Everest Kitchen Restaurant, PHI Pharmacy, Hardt Eye Clinic, J's Restaurant, and HR Support, CNMI. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS

One of two instructors from Heavy Rescue Training LLC, based in Utah, teaches firefighters of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Search and Rescue Unit and Commonwealth Ports Authority's Aircraft Rescue Firefighting about technical rescue operation techniques in rescuing and recovering victims trapped in a confined space or in underground vaults, silos, storage tanks, or sewers. The specialized training was held last Jan. 16 to 31 at the ARFF Training Facility at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

DEREK GERSONDE

'Principal of a real property broker arrested, deported'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Immigration officials have deported the principal of a company engaged in buying and selling real property on Saipan, disrupting its business operations, according to court documents.

American CM Real Estate Development Co. and its agent, Xuemei Yu, are also being sued for allegedly refusing to return \$760,000 in deposits over failed transactions on two properties, including one in Capital Hill owned by Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

The name of the American CM's principal was not shown in court papers, but he was said to have been deported to Canada.

Shangrui Investment Development Co. Ltd., through counsel Tiberius D. Mocanu, is suing American CM Real Estate Development Co. and Yu before the Superior Court.

According to Mocanu, American CM approaches potential sellers and offers them a set amount for their property.

If the seller agrees, American CM then enters into an

agreement to lease/assign with the seller. Mocanu said the closing date is usually scheduled around 180 days from the signing of the agreement.

American CM then searches for a buyer for the same property.

Mocanu said that on April 27, 2017, American CM entered into an agreement with Manglona, the fee-simple owner of a property on Capital Hill, for the purchase of the property for \$418,100, with closing to occur on or before Oct. 27, 2017.

Mocanu said the agreement was recorded on June 8, 2017.

On April 28—a day after entering into the agreement with the senator—Mocanu said that American CM, through Yu, entered into an "Assignment of Ground Lease" with Shangrui Investment for the purchase of the same property for \$522,625.

That same day, Shangrui paid American CM and Yu \$100,000 as a deposit for the purchase of the Capital Hill property.

Mocanu said that American CM purported to assign all of its rights and interests

in a "nonexistent lease" to the Capitol Hill property to Shangrui. At the time, American CM represented to Shangrui that it had good title to the property, the lawyer said.

Mocanu said Shangrui was unaware that American CM did not in fact have the title to the property.

In the case of the second property, Mocanu said American CM, through Yu, entered into an agreement with Shangrui regarding a piece of land in Tanapag on May 31, 2017.

The Tanapag agreement stated a purchase price of \$1.7 million and a closing date within 180 days of the signing of the agreement.

On June 19, some 20 days after entering into the agreement to lease, Mocanu said, American CM entered into an agreement to assign lease with the owner of the Tanapag property, Villora Condotel Residence LLC.

American CM allegedly agreed to purchase the Tanapag property from Villora for \$1.5 million, with a closing within 180 days from the signing to the agreement.

Mocanu alleged paid

American CM \$660,000 as a deposit for the purchase of the Tanapag property.

The Tanapag property was scheduled to close on Nov. 27, 2017, but the counsel for American CM informed Shangrui that closing will not happen that day.

As of the filing of the complaint, Mocanu said, American CM has failed to deliver the assignment to lease to Shangrui.

He said Shangrui requested the return of its \$660,000 deposit, but defendants have not returned the money.

Mocanu said American CM, well knowing that it did not have leasehold rights or interest in the Capital Hill and Tanapag properties, fraudulently misrepresented that it had an interest in the properties when it executed the agreements to lease with Shangrui.

Mocanu said American CM's purpose is to cheat and defraud Shangrui.

Hongzhou Yu is listed as the main shareholder of Shangrui, while Dong Jiang is its manager.

In Xuemei Yu's answer, Yu

said that American CM and Shangrui entered into several successful transactions.

Yu said when legislation was enacted preventing employers from obtaining CW-1 visas for construction workers, Shangrui's CW-1 petitions for dozens of construction workers were denied.

Yu said Shangrui then became concerned about the value of real property on Saipan and its ability to develop real property.

She said Shangrui decided to exit the Saipan market.

Yu said Shangrui then began trying to sell its property holdings and trying to get out of deals it had agreed to.

Coincidentally, Yu said, the principal of American CM was arrested by U.S. Immigration officials, removed to Guam, and then deported.

She said this disrupted American CM's operations.

Yu said she was an agent of American CM and did not receive money from Shangrui and did not misrepresent anything to Shangrui.

"I believe Shangrui, a sophisticated and resourceful player in the real estate market, is simply looking to cover a loss, and does not care if its

allegations are false," Yu said.

She said Shangrui knew and was expressly told by American CM that American CM did not have title to the properties.

Yu admitted that most of the \$660,000 and \$100,000 initial payments to American CM had been used by American CM as its operating expenses.

Yu said she believes American CM expected to have the necessary operating funds for closing the Tanapag property by Nov. 27, 2017.

However, she said, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested the principal of American CM for overstaying his visa in September 2017.

Yu said the principal was subsequently deported to Canada.

"This greatly disrupted American CM's operations," she said.

Mocanu requested the court last Jan. 23 for an initial case management conference and mediation assessment hearing in this case.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan set the case management conference and mediation assessment hearing for March 27 at 9am.

Ferry nearly full, flights increase for Tinian festival

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, over 90 percent of available ferry seats to the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 17 and 18, 2018, have been sold out.

"The demand this year is greater than ever, and that's awesome," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Over the last couple years, we've been working diligently to make the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival even more enticing and accessible to visitors, and it's paying off. It's going to be a great weekend [on] Tinian for sure."

The available ferry slots aboard the *Super Emerald* ferry schedule are: Feb. 16, departing Tinian at 8:30pm; Feb. 17, departing Saipan at 9am; Feb. 18, departing Saipan at 9am and departing Tinian at 5pm; and Feb. 19, departing Saipan at 8am and departing Tinian at 12pm. Passengers will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lower Base and must check in one hour before departure.

Star Marianas Air, in cooperation with the MVA and the Tinian Mayor's Office, will extend its normal hours of operation during the festival. On Feb. 17 and Feb. 18, sched-



Local cuisine tantalizes revelers at the 2017 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. The 2018 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held on Feb. 17-18, 2018, at Tachogna Beach.

MVA

uled flights will be extended, with the last flights leaving Tinian at 10:30pm. To supplement its regularly scheduled flights that leave Saipan hourly at the top of the hour (starting from 7am) and Tinian hourly at the bottom of the hour (starting from 7:30am), Star Marianas will be operating additional aircraft to provide a Saipan-Tinian shuttle service. Advanced bookings are recommended. To minimize airport waiting times, interested travelers are encouraged to contact Star Marianas Air's reservations team at 433-9996 or 9998 to

find out if a particular time of the day is expected to be busier than others. For more information visit www.star-marianasair.com.

In addition, the MVA will provide free shuttle transportation between Tinian International Airport, Port of Tinian, and the festival grounds, only. Due to limited resources, shuttle transport to other venues will not be available. Car rental is also available.

Individuals arriving via the ferry will be shuttled directly to the festival grounds, and those departing via the ferry can catch the shuttle leaving

the festival beginning one-and-a half-hour before ferry departure time. Individuals arriving or departing at Tinian International Airport can call for a shuttle at (670) 433-3216 or visit the MVA information booth at the festival grounds for assistance.

Ferry round trip cost is \$20 for ages 3-11, \$35 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. For one way, the cost is \$10 for ages 3-11, \$18 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Passengers are allowed up to 70 lbs of cargo, including bicycles. A \$10 fee will be charged for additional cargo. Ticket purchases may be made

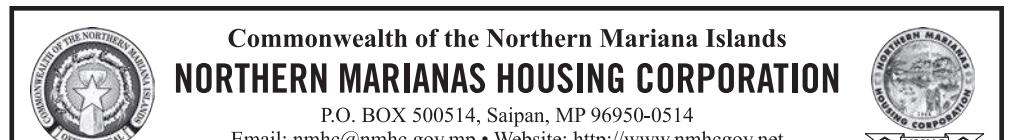
at the MVA Office on Tinian and Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted.

The festival highlights Tinian's famously potent *donni sali* pepper. The event is also co-organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office and the 16th Tinian Municipal Council and sponsored by MVA members. Activities will include the road/off road 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 17 at 6am, cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab), join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball), cook your best *kadun pika* (spicy stew), cha-cha to the championship, arm wrestle

or join the *donni sali* eating competition, itself. Festival times will be from 2pm to 11pm on both days.

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam.

Available hotels on island include Tinian Ocean View Hotel, Fleming's Hotel, Lorrynn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel and Green Lion House Hotel, and some hotels offer airport shuttle as well. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1 (670) 433-9365, email MVA Field Operations supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com, or visit the Marianas Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. (MVA)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhgov.net>

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2018

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,264,412.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$902,206.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$293,829.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$68,377.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2018.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 03, 2018.

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhgov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development".

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by April 06, 2018, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after April 06, 2018, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

*February 07, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 08, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
February 09, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota*

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CUC-RSQ-18-014

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water mains, sewer mains (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrade to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specification, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, electrical inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Island of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CUC. All work is subject to EPA & CUC review and pre-approval.

The RSQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFSQ package set. The RSQ package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective firms must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RSQ 18-014, Request for Statement of Qualifications" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2018.** Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

All responses to this RSQ should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business and Engineering license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 23, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Putin attacks democracy at home and abroad

On March 18, Russia will hold a presidential election.

It will not be a cliffhanger. Rather, Vladimir Putin will be reelected to his fourth presidential term (with a break after his first two terms during which he served as prime minister, because of term limits). If he finishes his next term in 2024, Putin would be his nation's longest-lasting leader since Josef Stalin.

Stalin didn't bother to feign democracy. Putin does, but it's just campaign Kabuki, especially since the most legitimate opposition figure, Alexei Navalny, is ineligible to run because of a conviction that he and most Western experts believe was the result of trumped-up charges.

"The existence of Russian democracy is a misnomer; Russia hasn't had free and fair elections during Putin's tenure," Mark D. Simakovskiy, a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, told an editorial writer.

So instead of running, Navalny is urging Russians to sit this election out. But even calls for a boycott are too much for Putin's paranoid rule, so Navalny was brusquely arrested (not for the first time) before reaching his fellow protesters in Moscow last Sunday. Authorities (thugs, really) moved in similar fashion in other Russian cities, harassing anyone opposing Putin's Potemkin democracy.

This internal suppression shouldn't surprise, since Russia has externally meddled in multiple elections in Europe and, according to a consensus assessment of U.S. intelligence agencies, in the 2016 presidential campaign in the United States.

It won't end there, according to CIA Director Mike Pompeo, who told the BBC that regarding Russian interference in the 2018 midterm elections, "I have every expectation that they will continue to try and do that."

In July, Congress rightly responded to Russia's attack by voting to impose sanctions on large purchasers of Russian military materiel. Unique for these deeply divisive times, the vote was overwhelming: 98-2 in the Senate and 419-3 in the House.

And yet on Monday the Trump administration announced that at this time it didn't plan on imposing any new sanctions.

The administration did comply with a requirement that it produce a list of "senior political figures and oligarchs" in Russia. Critics pointed out that it mostly mirrored a Forbes list of Russian billionaires, suggesting a lack of seriousness; just a slate, without any action taken. Still, in his own act of disgraceful gall, Putin called it "an unfriendly move."

So is attacking democracies, including the ostensible one in Russia.

The West must respond vigorously to Moscow meddling in elections abroad and smothering democracy at home.

Ideally, such a response would be led by the putative leader of the free world. But President Donald Trump only mentioned Russia once in his State of the Union address, and only by grouping it with China as a "rival."

If Trump continues to flinch, lawmakers should show resolve to uniformly implement punitive measures against Russian aggression.

(c)2018 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Discussing race with my 5 year old

Most weeks, my daughter's class sends home three books for parents to read with their kindergartners. Last week, one of ours was a book of poems written by African-American children, celebrating their blackness. One little girl wrote that black is beautiful, and so is white—and my blond-haired, blue-eyed child perked up.

"She said 'white!'" she exclaimed, then her shoulders dropped. "It's not fair that this has only black children in it," she said. "I want to be African American."

I flashed on a conversation we'd had the week before, about Martin Luther King Jr. and how her class, which is racially diverse, had discussed the atrocities inflicted on black people by whites; on the five books I'd given her about girls interested in science, all of them black; on the only baby doll I'd ever bought her: a brown-skinned infant to balance the white one her grandma gave her—the one who actually looks like her.

Then I wondered: "Have I gone too far—or is this societal progress?"

I imagined the discussion we were about to have was one that had been held in black households for generations, the children bombarded with images of kids who look like mine. Maybe it's right that it's our turn, or just time. Or maybe this is just a kid thing; she could have coveted someone's toy or monkey bar skills, but in that moment she chose skin color—not comprehending the enormity of race in America.

My husband and I tell her that looks don't matter, that all shapes and sizes and colors are beautiful, and that what counts in life is what you do, not how you appear. But we also tell her that some people have been picked on because of their physical characteristics—essentially shut out, shut down and shut up for being brown, often by people who look like us but don't think like us.

So, while we say that all people are equal, we clearly make a special effort to say why black people in particular are equal. Because we know our country's troubled past and present, we highlight a group based on the very characteristics we've told her aren't important.

Even at 5, she sees the contradiction. And, it appears, an unintended consequence has been to send a message that black is actually better.

I wasn't sure how I felt about that, especially knowing we were headed into February—Black History Month. What would it mean for her? Many white adults still struggle to understand why we must proclaim "black lives matter," rather than a blanket "all lives matter."

Without historical context, singling out a month to honor the achievements of black Americans could be especially confus-

By TRICIA BISHOP

The Baltimore Sun

Tricia Bishop is The Baltimore Sun's deputy editorial page editor.



ing to a child trying to figure out the world. Why would we do that if skin color doesn't matter? My kid doesn't know that the country is attempting to atone for its sins, that for decades those accomplishments were ignored or that the only history that was revered was some shade of white—that, in essence, the other 11 months are really white history months, that skin color does in fact matter to many.

But she isn't completely without context, even as a kindergartner. She's appalled by the exclusion of girls from anything, and she is learning to apply that to other characteristics in other people. She pointed out recently, for example, that brown people are unfairly underrepresented in the shows she watches.

Of course, for too many kids of color, context has never been an issue; they've already felt racism both subtle and overt, and it's likely to get worse as they age. My daughter, too, will come to recognize it with ease I expect—and to understand that whites are still largely privileged in America.

So I took a moment to lament the fact that we are so far from "post-racial" it's pathetic, and I did my best to offer some perspective without doing damage.

We talked a bit about history and why we sometimes make a special effort to include and appreciate people who have previously been left out, and how that doesn't mean she's lesser than they are because she looks different. She agreed and said everybody is the same inside, and I made a mental note to ease up on my promotion of Moana over Elsa (though the former is clearly the better role model). Then she asked me if we have any brown people in our family, and I said no.

"When I grow up, I'll marry a brown person, then," she said. "If I marry a peach person, our family will get bigger, but still be the same color." I laughed and told her she could marry anyone who would be a good partner to her, and that was that.

In the end, I needn't have worried; she seems to have a better grasp on the issue than the grown-ups. I hope that's true of her generation overall—and that conversations like this happen all over the country this month. We parents have a lot to learn.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What's really wrong with US infrastructure?

In his State of the Union address, President Donald Trump described the goal of his infrastructure plans: to cover the nation with “gleaming new roads” built with “American grit”—to emulate the great projects of the past, such as the Empire State Building.

This presents a much-needed opportunity for the president to fundamentally retool the outdated way the nation invests in its infrastructure. But in the rush to formulate a plan to revitalize the nation’s infrastructure, many have invoked the myth that our infrastructure is “crumbling” and is in unprecedented disrepair. This is, quite simply, a mischaracterization.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Diptych and diatribe

Being a Short Tragical Prudent History of Donald Forced Upon Us

paraphrasing Doctor Faustus

“Was this the face that launched a thousand ships,
And burnt the topless towers of Ilium?
Sweet Helen make me immortal with a kiss.
Her lips suck forth my soul; see, where it flies.”
—from ‘The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus’ written by Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593).

To paraphrase four famous lines by Christopher Marlowe please read and enjoy, try not to weep, the words below:
Was this the face that launched a thousand quips
and danced topless in the towers of Donald Trump
on a Stormy day with Daniels and Donald in the lions den
or was it on a course of action close to his golf club
her sin mortal? or he made immortal with a costly kiss
all of which a fleet of lawyers and the Donald denies
a verbatim quote from Dr. Faustus may settle this,
“Her lips suck forth my soul; see, where it flies.”
and let us not forget what Master ‘Kit’ Marlowe
said before we depart this satiric sonnet derision
“Money can’t buy love, but it improves your
bargaining position.” what? no illusion? no collusion?

A special happy birthday to Christopher ‘Kit’ Marlowe, born Feb. 6, 1564, in Canterbury, United Kingdom.

The Blonde Dude is a Dud

Inspiration from a Canzoniere sonnet, The White Doe, by Italian poet Francesco Petrarch (1304 -1374)

A blonde dude living in a tall white tower
came on the scene, his mirrors were of gold
he sent out twitter streams hour after hour
from morning till night to young and old
his vision was myopic he couldn’t stay on topic
I left him after working for him less than a year
totally appalled at his ignorance and media fear
someday it will be in a tell all cable TV biopic
In many speeches he repeated, “believe me, believe me”
he insulted democratic institutions and the world at large
trying to stop the chaos he put three generals in charge
like the battery rabbit he kept ticking going on and on
with media coverage every day for the world to see
America will breathe a sigh of relief when he’s gone

That’s not to say there’s no room for improvement. Most of us can readily think of a pothole-laden street nearby, or recall a bad experience at a crowded airport. But widespread “crumbling”? The fact is, the nation’s major infrastructure—the most vital assets that span states and regions—is in satisfactory condition.

Consider federal data on the nation’s bridges. Despite a reputation of steep decline, the number and share of bridges deemed “structurally deficient” (not unsafe, but in need of elevated maintenance) has declined by more than half over the last 25 years and now represents just 9 percent of the nation’s total.

The same goes for the nation’s major roads. A full 93 percent of the miles driven on the National Highway System is on pavement that is in fair or better condition.

The nation’s gateways to the world are also performing well. U.S. airports move more people than ever before and boast a near perfect safety record for scheduled commercial service. The nation’s seaports continue to be among the world’s largest conduits for international trade, providing affordable access to the world markets.

While this reality should cause taxpayers to think twice about the need for a massive federal spending plan, it is not to imply that the nation’s infrastructure is in pristine condition across the board. There are indeed public structures that require repair: local roads to repave, decrepit locks to refurbish, and water systems to replace.

However, this is not the case due to lack of federal funds. It is a symptom of a federal regulatory and funding system that makes it harder to accomplish vital repairs.

First, the cumbersome environmental review and permitting processes place a huge burden on all major infrastructure projects. On average, it takes more than five years just to receive an environmental impact statement, one step of many in the process.

Some projects are stuck in regulatory limbo for decades. These delays amount to billions of dollars in additional costs for governmental and private projects alike without providing any obvious environmental benefits. (Other environmentally conscious countries manage to approve projects much more quickly

than does the U.S.).

Trump correctly called these delays a “disgrace.” Streamlining the current labyrinthine system to a maximum of two years should continue to be a priority for an administration that has prided itself on sensible deregulation.

Another area that requires drastic improvement is the top-down funding system that too often inserts the federal government into local infrastructure decisions. For highways, airports and inland waterways infrastructure alike, the federal government acts as an intermediary by collecting taxes on users and redistributing them back to the states or project sponsors after stuffing the funds with costly mandates and diverting resources to pet projects.

A far more simple and efficient approach would be to cut out the middleman and allow users to fund projects directly at the project level or through local governments. The result would be a simpler and much more responsive funding regime that could better prioritize resources and modernize America’s infrastructure without special-interest interference from Washington.

Excessive environmental regulations and unnecessary funding schemes are just two ways of many that the federal government impedes infrastructure deployment. But they represent a tremendous opportunity for the Trump administration.

The right way forward is not to have the feds break the bank in vain. It is to take the opportunity to fix what’s wrong with the way the federal government impedes infrastructure investment.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A workforce nightmare that looms

I have written about how our leaders are putting so much focus on the CW issue, even as I warned them about neglecting locals by not implementing some form of affirmative action, and how they are putting all their eggs in the one basket of CWs! I have yet to see any type of reforms; just “CW this and CW that” in the news but “locals this” or “that” is yet to be a reality when it comes to the workforce. I’m not against the CWs and I even support the need for them and their desires as American dreamers too but our leaders were distracted with the tunnel vision of old politics instead of the new politics of Washington.

The omission and failure to listen to social and political scientists to influence legislation is not just limited to the CNMI but also in Washington, which is the very basis of my book, *The Audacity to Change*. All leaders need to listen more with an open mind and more objectively to the scientists when dealing with legislation that will have a direct effect on the Social and political fabrics they represent and eliminate the partisan politics.

It is obvious the tour guide certification was done for big business and not for locals to get jobs, which is why the law is counterproductive to locals becoming tour guides. Locals never needed a law to be tour guides, just an MVA policy to certify locals to set a “standard for expectations”! Tour guides should all be locals, like you will find in almost every tourist destination in the world but not the CNMI. The need for locals to speak a second language should have been placed on the tour agencies to sponsor the “teaching” of locals and to use CW translators until locals have made the transformation of speaking the language of tourists. By having CW tour guides, it continues the paradigm of needing CWs, which we know will come to an end.

The CNMI is literally setting itself up for failure with the dependency of using CW tour guides. I don’t think MVA or the Legislature realized what they were doing and they just threw my warnings into the trash as this could have been avoided.

To make it worse, some locals treat me like I’m the enemy. What is wrong with me trying to make sure locals are not eliminated from being part of the workforce? If I were local, I would get all kinds of praise and appreciation.

I’m even trying to make sure locals are the main entrepreneurs in the cannabis industry that is on the table to be implemented because the last draft that I saw is designed to give the industry to big business. It even eliminates locals with a record and puts much of the accountability for these businesses on themselves; the law will devastate locals if our leaders don’t fix the bill.

The workforce nightmare that looms is no joke for the powers-that-be on the hill and at MVA if they don’t change. I love Chris and I think he is a great person to be over MVA but the board really messed him and the local people around when it comes to the workforce equation, which is: Locals first + CWs = CNMI workforce.

But, to be honest, many locals are not interested in working in hotels doing the menial jobs that don’t really offer a career and only offer minimum wage. The tour guide positions and the manufacturing of marijuana for medical and recreational use and the production of hemp products will all open the door for locals to be trained as skilled workers who will get high wages with the real potential for careers. But our leaders need to set the right conditions for locals to thrive in the workforce and stop disenfranchising them.

Our leaders keep repeating the same experiment of extensions with CWs over and over, expecting a different result,. Which business has started recruiting from the FSM or Palau? See what I mean, nothing new, just more extensions. I am hopeful that this opinion will truly encourage our leaders to rethink the tour guide certification and marijuana laws.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan



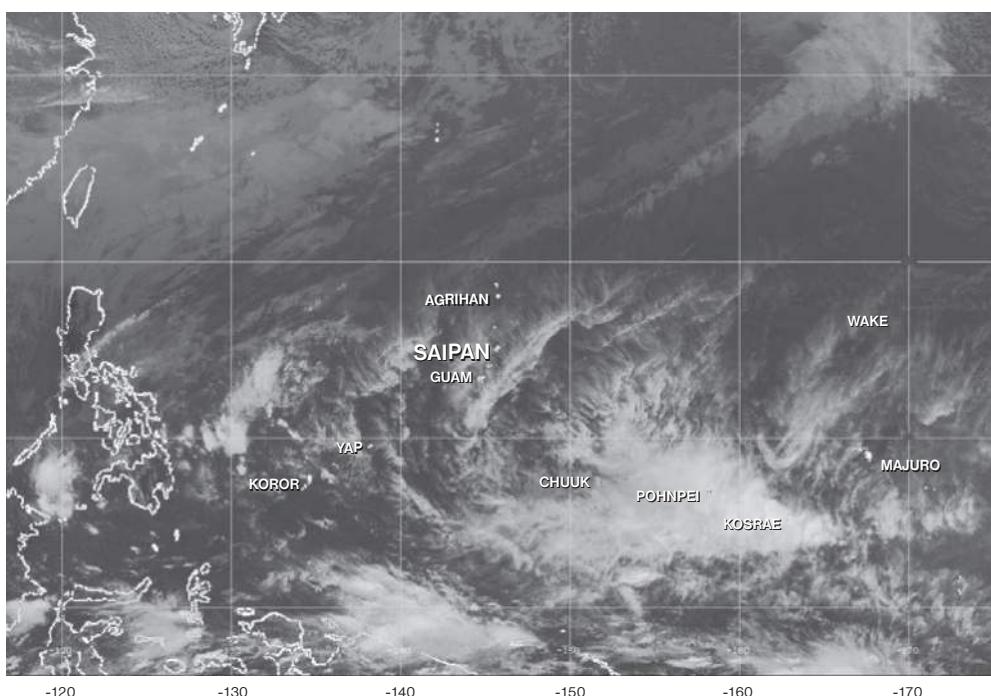
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:35 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Infrared satellite imagery shows quite a bit of cirrus streaming northward across the Marianas, but low-level cloudiness associated with a weak trade-wind disturbance can be seen approaching the islands from the east under the cirrus. Radar is beginning to show isolated showers out about 70 miles east of Guam, but tops are only up to 9 kft. Combined seas are generally 5 to 6 feet, with moderate trade winds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F

Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Majuro	Rain	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	75° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	37° / 16°
Hong Kong	Sunny	61° / 50°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	77° / 67°
London	Mostly Sunny	41° / 30°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79° / 56°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°
Melbourne	Cloudy	82° / 61°
Miami	Rain	79° / 69°
New York	Sunny	40° / 24°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Paris	Cloudy	36° / 27°
Busan	Sunny	34° / 19°
Rome	Rain	54° / 45°
Salem	Sunny	59° / 35°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	66° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	21° / 9°
Tokyo	Sunny	45° / 28°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	41° / 26°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

5:08 AM	LOW TIDE	0.12
11:33 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96
6:03 PM	LOW TIDE	0.61
11:23 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.60

DAY SUNRISE SUNSET

Today	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM

DAY MOONRISE MOONSET MOONRISE

Today	-	10:16 am	10:47 pm
Tuesday	-	10:58 am	11:38 pm
Wednesday	-	11:39 am	-
Thursday	12:28 am	12:21 pm	-
Friday	1:18 am	1:03 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403							

11 students on Saipan for cultural exchange

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the invitation of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, 11 students from Beijing, China are on Saipan to showcase the arts and dances of the Chinese culture, tour the islands and interact with other students, while experiencing the tropical beauty of the Commonwealth.

First lady Diann Torres said the first batch of exchange students is eager to share their culture.

"They reached out to us, which we appreciated and we are hoping to extend the invitation to the Public School System so our children can see other cultures. Many of us cannot afford to travel and we only get to see these beautiful places on television and on social media, but seeing it first hand is absolutely different and it's an



two cultures merge. The students from China performing the Chinese opera with full costume and make-up while our Eucon students sing Christmas songs," he said.

"Hopefully, this kind of education exchange program will be longer next time so we can have longer classroom immersion and showcase more of the traditions so students will learn more. During this exchange, we were invited to go in Beijing and there is great potential and opportunities to bond the ties," he added.

Century Tours supervisor Yang "May" Huihong said her office has been tasked to make all arrangements and logistics for the visiting children.

"It was a great success and the next educational tour exchange will hopefully be a longer one. In the future we plan to bring more students here," she said.

amazing experience," she said.

"We want to keep the partnership going and, at the same time, bring our kids abroad to

experience a different culture. We are looking forward to continuing this every other month and, hopefully, we would be

able to gather enough sponsors [so] the children can come here," she added.

The exchange students

Guam, NMI leaders build foundation for an historic 'Un Marianas' policy agenda

Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and agency representatives came together for the inaugural Marianas Working Group business meeting starting last Thursday.

The two-day meeting was

» 'This historic agreement sets into motion many things that we may achieve together for Guam and the CNMI'

designed to identify matters affecting both Guam and the CNMI. The working group further aims to develop policy solutions that will mutually benefit both jurisdictions.

Approximately 150 officials from Guam and the CNMI convened in working groups



Agency representatives came together for the inaugural Marianas Working Group business meeting starting last Thursday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second left, hands a gift to Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, second right, during the first day of the CNMI-Guam Marianas work group inaugural meeting last Thursday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

to share data, emerging trends, challenges, best practices, and opportunities for collaborating on topics spanning seven categories: labor and education; commerce and ports; homeland security and public safety; health and food security; finance and taxation; land, environment and veteran's affairs; as well as infrastructure, utilities and telecommunications.

Culture and language was discussed within each of the respective working groups.

"There's so much potential for the Marianas. But we have to go thousands and thousands of miles away to try to fix the problems that we didn't create. Today, this meeting is about our people coming

together to address these issues, and create opportunities for the Northern Marianas and Guam," said Calvo.

"We come together today to don our thinking caps, let flow our creative thinking juices; and to chart our canoe towards a closer, stronger, and more inseparable

un Marianas, un kurason, un sensin, un hâga', un guinaiya, un guinifi for our future generation," said John Oliver DLR "Bolis" Gonzales, chief of staff of Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and the event's emcee.

"This working group reaffirms the shared commitment by both Gov. Torres and Gov. Calvo for the Marianas to come together in organic pol-

icy discussions that will lead to long-term benefits. Collective problems require collective solutions and leaning on this concept of *inafa'maolek* will help the CNMI and Guam achieve this goal," said press secretary Kevin Bautista.

"Right now we are in agreement that Guam and the CNMI face a shortage of skilled laborers to meet current demands. The irony is that this is due to no fault of our own. However, I am confident that together we will address and solve this labor shortage crisis," Torres added.

"Both jurisdictions are natural partners. It is time to build up our Marianas together," said Guam Sen. Will Castro. (PR)

Inos to announce running mate on Feb. 15

Members of the central executive committee of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas, Inc. have been inundated with telephone calls from on and off-island regarding the selection of the lieutenant governor who will run with

former mayor and senator Joseph "Joe" S. Inos during the upcoming general election in November.

"We fully understand the general public interest on this matter and the importance of selecting a person whose qualifications and

personal traits are worthy of the public trust. It is because we truly value the honor of peoples' trust that our vetting process took those concerns very seriously and incorporated them into our profiling process," party chairman Daniel O. Quitugua said.

The central executive committee has completed its due diligence in reviewing all the potential candidates and has written its recommendation to Inos for his exclusive decision.

Inos has already personally informed Quitugua of

his decision and choice for his running mate.

According to Quitugua, Inos is sensitively aware of the public's demand for an individual whose passion and commitment to public service is exemplary.

Quitugua said that Inos

has found someone who embodies that quality, and that person is committed to serving the people of the Commonwealth when called upon to do so.

On Feb. 15, 2018, Inos will publicly announce his lieutenant governor choice. (PR)

NMIA awards \$1,000 to NMC students

The Northern Marianas Insurance Association recently awarded \$1,000 in scholarship funds to Northern Marianas College students. This is the association's second year to award the scholarships.

The purpose of the scholarship is threefold: 1) To promote higher education by providing financial assistance for college students in their pursuit of professional careers; 2) to help alleviate the critical current and future shortage of skilled and trained workforce for the CNMI; and, 3) to provide current public and private sector employees with opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills, and enhance their career and professional development.

The students who were selected to receive the NMIA scholarship are Chrystalle Lloren and Michael Santos. Both students had undergone a

highly competitive application process that included an essay and panel interview.

Lloren is a first-year student who is working on a degree in business management. She is also a recipient of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation scholarship.

Santos is a second year liberal arts student and will be graduating with his associate degree in liberal arts in May. He is also a recipient of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation scholarship. After graduation, Santos will be transferring to Portland State University to pursue his bachelor's degree in public health through PSU's pre-med program.

"We are extremely grateful for the support from the Northern Marianas Insurance Association, who is providing this scholarship for the second year in a row," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We

look forward to working with them to help ensure that financial and academic opportunities are expanding for our students."

NMIA is an association of insurance companies whose purpose is to protect the rights of its members for the benefit of the consumer through education, information, networking and active participation in the political environment and community service. As part of its expanded purposes, the organization also carries out not-for-profit activities that contribute to the betterment of the CNMI socially, economically, politically and culturally.

The scholarships were awarded based on the content of each student's written essay and an interview process.

The selection committee was composed of representatives from association and NMC. (NMC)



The Northern Marianas Insurance Association recently awarded Michael Santos, third from left, and Chrystalle Lloren, third from right, \$500 scholarships each. Also in this photo are Daisy Propst, NMC Financial Aid director, first from left; Jessica Sablan, senior underwriter of Pacifica Insurance, second from left; Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC president, center; Roberto Lloren, father of Chrystalle, second from right, and Gol Corpuz, general manager of Century Insurance, right.

NMC

Pathway lampposts get first of hanging flower baskets

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office has installed the first hanging flower baskets along Beach Road, with the hope that these flowering baskets will become fixtures.

The flower baskets have finally arrived from Japan and are being prepared for installation. The baskets are supposed to be part of the Island Flower project, which is intended to carpet the CNMI with flowering blooms.

The Saipan Mayor's Office has been working on procuring the baskets since November last year.

According to Saipan Mayor or David M. Apatang, he is excited. "I feel great. This has been my dream, to put up flower baskets, and we are finally realizing it with our partner, [the Marianas Visitors Authority]."

Apatang said the first few flower baskets they installed Thursday are considered test



The island's first hanging flower basket was installed Thursday by the Saipan Mayor's Office with help from its many partners.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

runs and if they turn out as the office hopes, they will install the rest.

"Today, we're putting up at

least five to test it out. We'll wait 10 days and see how it'll come out and, after that, we will put up the rest," he said.

Apatang's office is currently looking for sponsors to adopt

a lamppost and maintain their designated flower basket.

Interested individuals can visit the Saipan Mayor's Office along Beach Road to register as sponsors.

IN SUIT OVER FAILED UB40 CONCERTS

Lawsuit amended to add more information

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner of an entertainment company amended on Wednesday his lawsuit against a former CNMI resident who is now based in Honolulu over the mothballed concert of the UB40 in Guam and Saipan in 2015.

Steven Brownstein, who owns Steven Brownstein Entertainment, filed the amended complaint after the U.S. District Court for the NMI dismissed last November his claims of fraud and unjust enrichment against former CNMI resident Jason H. Aldan.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found the allegations of fraud against Aldan were insufficiently pleaded.

Manglona said that nowhere in the complaint as it alleged that Aldan kept any of the funds that Brownstein transferred to him or that Al-

dan profited from the deal.

"Therefore, the unjust enrichment claim fails," the judge said.

Manglona allowed Brownstein to amend both the fraud and the unjust enrichment claims.

Last April, Brownstein sued Aldan and Fredric Holloman and 10 unnamed co-defendants for allegedly defrauding the firm of \$115,000 by misrepresenting to have UB40 perform in Guam and Saipan in 2015.

The amended complaint has same causes of action—fraud and unjust enrichment—against Aldan and 10 unnamed co-defendants. It contains more details, but removes Holloman as one of the defendants.

Brownstein, represented in the case by Steven P. Pixley, wants Aldan and co-defendants to pay him damages.

Pixley said that Aldan and others damaged Brownstein

through a pattern of fraudulent misrepresentation relating to the performance of the UB40 band and the misappropriation of funds.

Pixley said the funds were transferred by Brownstein to Aldan and other individuals by wire transfer from the Bank of Hawaii in the CNMI to Hawaii and California.

Pixley said Brownstein wired the sum of \$115,000 to Aldan and Holloman and that these funds were misappropriated.

Holloman, a resident of California, is allegedly engaged in business through an entity known as Shae Entertainment/Management in La Jolla, California.

Aldan, through counsel Robert T. Torres, previously moved to dismiss the claims against him. He asserted that Brownstein has not alleged any facts to show that he enriched himself and benefited.

GCA Eagles do well in the last month's competitions

Grace Christian Academy students from Kindergarten to high school did well in the last monthly qualifying competitions of the Primary Grades Forensic Conference for Kindergarten to 5th graders, Junior Thespians for 6th to 8th grades, and the National Speech and Debate Association competition for 9th to 12th grades. They won in different events like reading, public speaking, interpretations, and performing arts.

GCA's PGFC competitors won several awards to qualify and prepare them for the regional competition in March.

GCA 6th grader Sara Elizabeth Keaton, the only GCA Thespian competitor, won third place in solo musical in the last Junior Thespian competition.

Like their younger schoolmates in Kindergarten to 5th grades who won in the PGFC competition, Grace Christian Academy's seven National Speech and Debate Association competitors soared high at the January competitions. All of NSDA competitors won one or more of the events they competed in.

The administration, faculty, and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy were very proud of each student and would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in these island wide competitions.

GCA JANUARY 2018 PGFC WINNERS K-2 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation A

Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, 2nd Place
Akira Ito, 3rd Place

Humorous Interpretation A

Jonathan Rosh Vivero, 3rd Place
En Mei Victoria Huang, 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking A

Akira Ito, 2nd Place
Jonathan Rosh Vivero, 3rd Place
Avania Clarise Quichocho, 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking B

Prince Jhulz Reyes, 2nd Place
Hannah Gabaldon, 4th Place

Readers Forum A

Aleyah Melissa Fatialofa, 5th Place

Readers Forum Masters B

Hannah Gabaldon, 1st Place
Prince Jhulz Reyes, 2nd Place

3-5 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation A

Tae Hee Kim, 2nd Place
Arielle Mae Matutino, 3rd Place

Humorous Interpretation B

Moira Grace Ernest, 4th Place
Impromptu Speaking A

Ethan John Quichocho, 1st Place
Nestor Ablog Jr., 2nd Place

Impromptu Speaking B

Janus Roman Calayo, 2nd Place
Moira Grace Ernest, 3rd Place

Readers Forum Masters A

Arielle Mae Matutino, 2nd Place

Readers Forum Masters B

Tae Hee Kim, 2nd Place
Angieleysha Marie Punzalan, 3rd Place

K5 to 5th Grade homeroom teachers

K5 teacher: Sheryl Joy Prieto
1st Grade teacher: Leah Garfil
2nd Grade teacher: Miriam Dilse
3rd Grade teacher: Deenalin Crook
4th Grade teacher: Amanda Haas
5th Grade teacher: Rowena Libut

PGFC coach/coordinator:

Esther Manzano

Judges: Deenalin Crook, Amanda Haas, Alicia Gray Cortes, Sandy Howard, Justine Calayo, Melody Woo

GCA JUNIOR THESPIAN COMPETITION

Solo Musical Theater

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 3rd Place

Thespian coach/coordinator:

Allison Burnette

Competition registrar:

Esther Manzano

Judge:

Justine Calayo

GCA JANUARY 2018 NSDA CONTEST

Dramatic Interpretation B

Johnny Jin, 3rd Place

Original Oratory A

Na Lee Christy Lee, 3rd Place

Original Oratory B

Sumin Melody Woo, 3rd Place

Original Oratory C

Sumin Melody Woo, 1st Place



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy January 2018 Primary Grades Forensic Conference winners have their picture taken at the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library Navy Hill campus.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy January 2018 National Speech and Debate Association competition winners have their picture taken at the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library Navy Hill campus.

Johnny Jin, 3rd Place

Prose Reading Masters A

Johnny Jin, 4th Place

Duran

Competition registrar: Esther Manzano

Judges: Grace Duran, Arvin Dayao

Prose Reading Masters B

Na Lee Christy Lee, 3rd Place

NSDA coach/coordinator:

Grace

2018 Green Gala on Sept. 4

Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance has announced that the highly anticipated Green Gala, the agency's signature fundraising event, will be held on Friday, Sept. 14, 2018.

This annual event raises critical funds that allow MINA to continue building upon our conservation outreach programs in the CNMI such as the Tasi-Watch, Adopt-A-Bin, and Schools for Environmental Conservation Programs, and other ini-

tiatives. These programs all help to reduce marine debris and build upon the culture of recycling.

This will be the sixth time that MINA has hosted the Green Gala, and every year the event has sold out because of its increasing popularity. Those interested in attending the gala or in sponsorship opportunities are encouraged to contact 233-7333. More details about the event will be announced soon. (PR)



FERDIE DE LA TORRE
U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David Carter explains to Saipan Community School social studies students how the district court operates, among other things, during the children's tour last Friday. Also in the photo is music teacher Anne McCaslin.

ing because not everyone has a chance to meet a federal judge," said Zeng, who was one of 12 in a social studies class.

Music teacher Anne McCaslin said the tour was mostly for the children to learn about how the government works and how the federal government interacts with the local government here on the island.

McCaslin said a few of the students like to be involved in law and want to know how court decisions are being made, among other things. (Ferdie de la Torre)

SCS students learn how district court operates

Eight graders from the Saipan Community School toured the U.S. District Court for the NMI in Garapan last Friday and learned from Designated Judge David Carter how the court operates.

Carter talked with the students, among other things, the water supply on Saipan and how he became a judge.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy.

Moon Zeng, 14, said they got a chance to meet Carter, watched a status conference, and saw law books. "It's amaz-

Business

Exxon sees limited impact on business from climate policies

DALLAS (AP)—Exxon Mobil has told shareholders that it doesn't think policies to combat climate change will have much effect on its business and that demand for fossil fuels will remain strong for decades.

In a report released Friday, the company does acknowledge that some of its most costly oil and gas reserves might not be developed.

Exxon's report comes in response to pressure from shareholders who voted last May to urge the company to issue a report on the matter every year.

The shareholders fear that policies to limit heat-trapping carbon emissions will hurt

Exxon's business of drilling for oil and natural gas.

The shareholder vote followed the 2015 Paris climate agreement, which called for policies to stop the rise in global temperatures at two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Exxon said that even with that goal, the world will need to invest trillions of dollars in oil and natural gas to meet increasing energy demand from a growing world population and rising prosperity.

Exxon said more than 90 percent of its current proven reserves of oil and gas will be pumped from the ground by 2040 and won't be affected by a 2-degree scenario.

The company said some of its higher-cost assets may not be developed, but energy demand will allow it to replenish its reserves "for decades to come."

Officials in several states accuse Exxon of misleading the public and investors on what it knew about the role of fossil fuels in climate change. Exxon has denied the claims and is fighting back in court against investigations by New York and Massachusetts officials.

Exxon Mobil Corp., based in Irving, Texas, released its report the same day that it posted disappointing fourth-quarter earnings, pushing Exxon shares down 5.1 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ryan tweets about a \$1.50 paycheck boost, then deletes it

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker Paul Ryan has highlighted on Twitter a school secretary benefiting from the Republican tax overhaul, then deleted the tweet after online criticism that he is cheering an increase of \$1.50 a week. The Associated Press reported on Thursday that changes in tax withholding were sparking bigger paychecks, citing as one example Julia Ketchum of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, whose check went up \$1.50 a week. Ryan on Saturday posted a Tweet noting the secretary's increase and linking to the AP story. He has posted several other examples of worker pay increases and bonuses since the overhaul, some as much as \$1,000. Ryan's spokeswoman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Law firm helps with sex misconduct inquiry into Steve Wynn

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Wynn Resorts has hired a law firm to help investigate sexual misconduct allegations against casino mogul Steve Wynn, the company's chairman and CEO. A statement by Los Angeles-based law firm O'Melveny & Myers LLP says it will assist the Wynn board's special committee of independent directors with the inquiry. The statement released Friday says investigators will set up a phone and web-based reporting line for current and former Wynn employees to provide information. The Wall Street Journal reported Jan. 26 that a number of women said Wynn harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a \$7.5 million settlement. The Las Vegas billionaire has vehemently denied the allegations, which he attributed to a campaign led by his ex-wife. He also faces investigations by gambling regulators in two states.

UK says new powers signal crackdown on illicit wealth

LONDON (AP)—The British government has introduced new powers to seize suspicious assets that it says will help curb London's status as a haven for ill-gotten gains. A measure called unexplained wealth orders, which came into effect this week, allows authorities to seize assets over 50,000 pounds

(\$70,000) until owners account for how they were acquired. Security Minister Ben Wallace told Saturday's Times of London that the government was sending criminals a message that "we will come for you, for your assets and we will make the environment that you live in difficult." The government estimates 90 billion pounds in illegal cash is laundered in Britain every year, much of it passing through London financial firms and the city's real-estate market. Wallace said the government wanted to build on awareness generated by TV series "McMafia," currently running on the BBC. Adapted from Misha Glenny's nonfiction book, the drama series centers on a London financier entwined with Russian criminals. Wallace said the series, starring James Norton, was "very close to the truth."

Warren Buffett on hand as Navy commissions newest warship

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The U.S. Navy on Saturday commissioned its newest warship, the USS Omaha, a futuristic, \$440 million vessel named for the Nebraska hometown of billionaire Warren Buffett, who was on hand for the ceremony. The Omaha, a 218-foot-long littoral combat ship, was commissioned at its new home port in San Diego. Buffett's daughter, Susie Buffett, who was designated as the ship's sponsor, gave the traditional order for officers and crew: "Man our ship and bring her to life." "Aye, aye, ma'am," they replied and ran to the ship as a band struck up "Anchors Aweigh." The aluminum-clad Omaha is designed for missions close to shore. It has high-tech computer capabilities and can be reconfigured for various missions, including anti-submarine warfare and anti-mine operations. "She is a beautiful ship," said Cmdr. Michael Toth, the commanding officer. "To be at her helm is more akin to flying an aircraft with a pilot and a co-pilot than to conning a traditional warship." Other dignitaries at the ceremony included Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert and former Nebraska Gov. and U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey, a Navy veteran and Medal of Honor winner. "I am proud to share our name, our heritage and our community values with USS Omaha and its commander, and we wish you safety on your missions," Stothert said.

Nation

Victims' dad apologizes after lunging at Nassar in courtroom

CHARLOTTE, Mich. (AP)—A distraught father seething over sexual abuse suffered by three daughters tried to attack former sports doctor Larry Nassar in a Michigan courtroom after a judge rejected his request to confront the "demon" in a locked room, a stunning rush that reflected the anguish felt by parents who trusted him with their children.

Randall Margraves was blocked by an attorney, tackled by sheriff's deputies and hauled out of court Friday. He later apologized, saying he had lost control. Eaton County Judge Janice Cunningham said there was "no way" she would fine him or send him to jail under her contempt-of-court powers.

"I don't know what it would be like to stand there as a father and know that three of your girls were injured physically and emotionally by somebody sitting in a courtroom. I can't imagine that," the judge said.

Nonetheless, she added, it is "not acceptable that we combat assault with assault."

The incident occurred during the third and final sentencing hearing for Nassar, who has admitted to sexually assaulting girls under the guise



Randall Margraves, left, father of three victims of Larry Nassar, background right, lunges at Nassar in Eaton County Circuit Court in Charlotte, Mich., on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018.

of medical treatment. This case focuses on his work at Twistars, an elite gymnastics club southwest of Lansing.

Nassar, 54, already will spend the rest of his life in prison. He was sentenced last week to 40 to 175 years in prison for assaults at Michigan State University and his home and was ordered in December to spend 60 years in a federal prison for child pornography crimes.

Nassar pleaded guilty to molesting nine victims in Eaton and Ingham counties, but the courts have been open to anyone who says she was assaulted during his decades of work at Michigan State, Twistars and USA Gymnas-

tics, which trains Olympians. More than 200 accusers so far have spoken or submitted statements in the two counties, and at least 80 percent have agreed to be publicly identified.

Margraves' dramatic move occurred after he listened to two of his daughters speak in court for 10 minutes. Lauren Margraves, a college student, said her parents were "filled with regret" because they took three daughters to see Nassar for sports injuries.

"I see the look in their faces and I know they want to be able to do something but they can't," she told Nassar. "The guilt they have will never go away. All this is because of you."

Trump cites GOP memo as vindication on Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump has claimed complete vindication from a congressional memo that alleges the FBI abused its surveillance powers during the investigation into his campaign's possible Russia ties. But the memo also includes revelations that might complicate efforts by Trump and his allies to undermine special counsel Robert Mueller's inquiry.

The four-page document released Friday contends that the FBI, when it applied for a surveillance warrant on a onetime Trump campaign associate, relied excessively on an ex-British spy whose opposition research was funded by Democrats. At the same time, the memo confirms that the investigation into potential

Trump links to Russia actually began several months earlier, and was "triggered" by information involving a different campaign aide.

Christopher Steele, the former spy who compiled the allegations, acknowledged

having strong anti-Trump sentiments. But he also was a "longtime FBI source" with a credible track record, according to the memo from the House Intelligence Committee chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., and his staff.

The warrant authorizing the FBI to monitor the communications of former campaign adviser Carter Page was not a one-time request, but was approved by a judge on four occasions, the memo says, and even signed off on by the second-ranking official at the Justice Department, Rod Rosenstein, whom Trump appointed as deputy attorney general.

Trump, however, tweeted Saturday from Florida, where he was spending the weekend, that the memo puts him in the clear.

"This memo totally vindicates 'Trump' in probe," he said. "But the Russian Witch Hunt goes on and on. Their (sic) was no Collusion and there was no Obstruction (the word now used because, after one year of looking endlessly

and finding NOTHING, collusion is dead). This is an American disgrace!"

The underlying materials that served as the basis for the warrant application were not made public in the memo. As a result, the document only further intensified a partisan battle over how to interpret the actions of the FBI and Justice Department during the early stages of the counterintelligence investigation that Mueller later inherited.

Even as Democrats described it as inaccurate, some Republicans quickly cited the memo - released over the objections of the FBI and Justice Department - in their arguments that Mueller's investigation is politically tainted.

A closer read presents a far more nuanced picture.

"Having decided to cherry-pick, the Nunes team picked a bunch of the wrong cherries for its own narrative," Matthew Waxman, a Columbia University law professor and former Bush administration official, wrote in an email.

Asia

PH: 3 deaths may be linked to dengue vaccinations

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine health officials said Friday that the deaths of three children injected with a Sanofi Pasteur dengue vaccine may have “causal association” to the inoculation, including two who may have died because the vaccine failed.

The Philippine government halted its massive immunization drive last year after Sanofi said a study showed the vaccine may increase the risks of dengue in people vaccinated prior to infection. More than 830,000 children were injected with the Dengvaxia vaccine, health officials said.

“This issue continues to sow fear and confusion, especially to the parents of children who have been injected with Dengvaxia,” Health Secretary Francisco Duque III’s office said in a statement. “We aim to give clarity on the issues with an honest and objective reporting of the evidence and science.”

Duque said further study was needed on the vaccine. Investigators found no evidence the rest of the 14 reported child deaths were related to the vaccine.

Dr. Juliet Sio-Aguilar, who led the investigation, told a news conference that only one of the three dead children had



Department of Health Undersecretary Dr. Rolando Enrique Domingo, right, gestures besides Philippine General Hospital Director Dr. Gerardo Legaspi, during a press conference at the Department of Health office in Manila, Philippines on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018.

developed dengue antibodies, which would have served as a protection against an infection, but still died.

“We really want to know what happened,” she said.

Sanofi Pasteur officials did not immediately issue any comment.

The investigation results on the three deaths will be submitted to the Department of Justice, which is looking into possible criminal liabilities, Duque said.

Two weeks ago, Duque told reporters that Sanofi Pasteur has agreed to take back huge stocks of Dengvaxia that have not been used and pay back more than a billion pesos (\$20 million) to

the Philippine government.

Sanofi Pasteur said in December that its long-term follow-up study of the vaccine showed sustained benefits for up to six years for those who had a previous dengue infection, but that people who never had dengue had an increased risk of a severe case and hospitalization from the third year after immunization.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection found in tropical countries worldwide. It is a flu-like disease that can cause joint pain, nausea, vomiting and a rash and can cause breathing problems, hemorrhaging and organ failure in severe cases.

World

Extreme-right gunman shoots 6 Africans in Italy

MILAN (AP)—An Italian gunman with extreme right-wing sympathies shot and wounded six African immigrants Saturday in a two-hour drive-by shooting spree, authorities said, terrorizing a small Italian city where a Nigerian man had been arrested days earlier in a teenager’s gruesome killing.

Police photos showed the shooting suspect with a neo-Nazi tattoo prominently on his forehead as he sat in custody and an Italian flag tied around his neck as he was arrested in the central Italian city of Macerata.

Authorities identified him as Luca Traini, a 28-year-old Italian with no previous record.

Traini had run for town council on the anti-migrant Northern League’s list in a local election last year in Corridonia, the party confirmed, but its mayoral candidate lost the race. The news agency ANSA quoted friends of his as saying that Traini had previously been affiliated with Italian extremist parties like the neo-fascist Forza Nuova and CasaPound.

The shooting spree came days after the slaying of 18-year-old Pamela Mastropietro and amid a heated

Authorities said the six

wounded—five men and

one woman—appeared to

be random targets in various

parts of the city of 43,000 in

“What happened appears to be a completely random armed retaliation raid,” Minniti said, adding that evidence indicated that while the gunman had planned the attack, he had acted alone. “In a democracy, it is not permitted for individuals to seek justice alone, even if in this case, there is nothing that recalls a notion of justice.”

In Macerata, Interior Minister Marco Minniti said the gunman had been motivated

“by racial hatred,” and had “a

background of right-wing extre-

mism with clear references

to fascism and Nazism.”

As the violent attack un-

folded, police told residents to stay inside and ordered a

halt to public transport to lim-

it the casualties. Such violent

shootings are rare in Italy, and

usually associated with the

southern Italian mafia.

A video posted by the *il Resto di Carlino* newspaper showed the suspect with an Italian flag draped over his shoulders being arrested by armed Carabinieri officers in the city center, near where he apparently fled his car on foot. Italian news reports

said a registered gun was

found inside the car and the

suspect did a fascist salute as

he was arrested, but no salute

was visible in the video.

8 Turkish troops die in Syria operation; Russian pilot slain

BEIRUT (AP)—Turkey said eight of its troops were killed Saturday in Ankara’s military operation against a Syrian Kurdish militia, known as the People’s Protection Units or YPG, which it considers to be a terrorist organization and an extension of Kurdish insurgents fighting within Turkey.

From Istanbul, Turkish

presidential spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, said Turkey will

not tolerate the presence of

the YPG “anywhere” along

its southern border, hinting

that Ankara might expand

the Afrin operation eastward.

Turkey’s first demand is to

see the YPG move east of the

Euphrates River and leave

the town of Manbij, where

American troops backing the

Syrian Kurdish fighters are

stationed, Kalin said.

He called on the United

States to “disengage” from

the YPG and said Turkey will

continue communications

with “our American allies to

avoid any confrontation.”

Turkey shares a 911-kilo-

meter border with Syria. The

YPG controls much of the

territory along the border and

Italy’s central Marche region. Italian news reports indicated that the gunman’s trajectory included the area where the Italian murder victim was found and where the prime suspect in her slaying lived.

The identities and nationalities of the shooting victims remained unknown. Hospital officials said late Saturday that one had been treated and released, while the others had either undergone surgery or were facing operations for their injuries. One of them remained in intensive care.

As the violent attack unfolded, police told residents to stay inside and ordered a halt to public transport to limit the casualties. Such violent shootings are rare in Italy, and usually associated with the southern Italian mafia.

A video posted by the *il Resto di Carlino* newspaper showed the suspect with an Italian flag draped over his shoulders being arrested by armed Carabinieri officers in the city center, near where he apparently fled his car on foot. Italian news reports said a registered gun was found inside the car and the suspect did a fascist salute as he was arrested, but no salute was visible in the video.

an uninterrupted strip from

Manbij to the Iraqi border.

Meanwhile, in the embattled northwestern province of Idlib, al-Qaida-linked militants said they downed a Russian fighter jet and killed its pilot after he ejected from the plane and landed on the ground.

The pilot resisted being captured and fired at the militants who then shot and killed him, according to one of the militants and Syrian monitors.

The Russian Defense Ministry confirmed the downing of the Su-25 and said the pilot was killed in fighting with “terrorists.” A report on the ministry’s Zvezda TV said preliminary information indicated the plane was shot by a portable ground-to-air missile in an area under control of al-Qaida’s branch in Syria.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the plane was downed near the rebel-held town of Saraqeb, which Syrian troops have been trying to take under the cover of Russian airstrikes.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China criticizes US for nuclear adversary claims

BEIJING (AP)—China has criticized a U.S. government report that portrays Beijing as a potential nuclear adversary and called on Washington to honor its commitments to reduce its own arsenal. The Defense Ministry on Sunday said China’s military activities are defensive and its nuclear forces are the “minimum level” required for its security. A ministry statement expressed hope the United States will “abandon a Cold War mentality” and “shoulder its special and prior responsibility for its own nuclear disarmament.” A sweeping U.S. nuclear policy review issued Friday says Washington wants to prevent Beijing from mistakenly concluding that any use of nuclear weapons, however limited, is acceptable.

tions levelled against Islamabad in the wake of recent deadly militant attacks in Kabul that have killed over 200 people. A joint statement after the day-long meeting in the Afghan capital said the two sides promised to keep talking. After the recent attacks, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani’s government has insisted Pakistan’s failure to rout Taliban militants from safe havens on its soil is spurring the insurgency inside Afghanistan. Kabul also accused Islamabad of harboring the Taliban, who are allegedly being trained in Islamic seminaries in southwestern Pakistan. Pakistan denies the charges. Islamabad says Saturday’s meeting was part of a larger dialogue while the Afghans billed it as a response to their accusations against Islamabad.

Report: Blast at China chemical plant kills 4

BEIJING (AP)—An explosion at a chemical plant in eastern China has killed four people, a state news agency reported Sunday. Six other people were injured in the blast Saturday at the Jinshan Chemical Plant Co., in Linshu County in Shandong province southeast of Beijing, the Xinhua News Agency said. The company’s owner was in police custody and the cause of the blast is under investigation, Xinhua said.

The total death toll for Turkish troops since the operation, codenamed Olive Branch, started on Jan. 20 now stands at 13. Turkey launched the in-

Afghan, Pakistan officials meet in Kabul to talk differences

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Pakistani and Afghan officials have met for a second round of talks about allega-

Focus

AP confirms 5 previously unreported Myanmar mass graves

BALUKHALI REFUGEE CAMP, Bangladesh (AP)—

The faces of the men half-buried in the mass graves had been burned away by acid or blasted by bullets. Noor Kadir finally recognized his friends only by the colors of their shorts.

Kadir and 14 others, all Rohingya Muslims in the Myanmar village of Gu Dar Pyin, had been choosing players for the soccer-like game of chinlone when the gunfire began. They scattered from what sounded like hard rain on a tin roof. By the time the Myanmar military stopped shooting, only Kadir and two teammates were left alive.

Days later, Kadir found six of his friends among the bodies in two graves.

They are among more than five mass graves, all previously unreported, that have been confirmed by The Associated Press through multiple interviews with more than two dozen survivors in Bangladesh refugee camps and through time-stamped cellphone videos. The Myanmar government regularly claims such massacres of the Rohingya never happened, and has acknowledged only one mass grave containing 10 "terrorists" in the village of Inn Din. However, the AP's reporting shows a systematic slaughter of Rohingya Muslim civilians by the military, with help from Buddhist neighbors—and suggests the presence of many more graves with many more people.

"It was a mixed-up jumble of corpses piled on top of each other," said Kadir, a 24-year-old firewood collector. "I felt such sorrow for them."

The graves are the newest piece of evidence for what looks increasingly like a genocide in Myanmar's western Rakhine state against the Rohingya, a long-persecuted ethnic Muslim minority in the predominantly Buddhist country. Repeated calls to Myanmar's military communications office went unanswered Wednesday and Thursday. Htun Naing, a local security police officer in Buthidaung township, where the village is located, said he "hasn't heard of such mass graves."

Myanmar has cut off access to Gu Dar Pyin, so it's unclear just how many people died, but satellite images obtained by the AP from DigitalGlobe, along with video of homes reduced to ash, reveal a village that has been decimated. Community leaders in the refugee camps have compiled a list of 75 dead so far, and villagers estimate the toll could

be as high as 400, based on testimony from relatives and the bodies they've seen in the graves and strewn about the area. A large number of the survivors carry scars from bullet wounds, including a 3-year-old boy and his grandmother.

Almost every villager interviewed by the AP saw three large mass graves at Gu Dar Pyin's northern entrance, near the main road, where witnesses say soldiers herded and killed most of the Rohingya. A handful of witnesses confirmed two other big graves near a hillside cemetery, not too far away from a school where more than 100 soldiers were stationed after the massacre. Villagers also saw other, smaller graves scattered around the village.

In the videos of the graves obtained by the AP, dating to 13 days after the killing began, blue-green puddles of acid sludge surround corpses without heads and torsos that jut into the air. Skeletal hands seem to claw at the ground.

THE MASSACRE

Survivors said that the soldiers carefully planned the Aug. 27 attack, and then deliberately tried to hide what they had done. They came to the slaughter armed not only with rifles, knives, rocket launchers and grenades, but also with shovels to dig pits and acid to burn away faces and hands so that the bodies could not be identified. Two days before the attack, villagers say, soldiers were seen buying 12 large containers of acid at a nearby village's market.

The killing began around noon, when more than 200 soldiers swept into Gu Dar Pyin from the direction of a Buddhist village to the south, firing their weapons. The Rohingya who could move fast enough ran toward the north or toward a river in the east, said Mohammad Sha, 37, a shop owner and farmer.

Sha hid in a grove of coconut trees near the river with more than 100 others and watched as the soldiers searched Muslim homes. Dozens of Buddhists from neighboring villages, their faces partly covered with scarves, loaded the possessions they found into about 10 pushcarts.

Then the soldiers burned down the homes, shooting anyone who couldn't flee, Sha said.

At the same time, another group of soldiers closed in from the north, encircling Gu Dar Pyin and trapping villagers in a tightening noose.

When Mohammad Younus,



This Dec. 20, 2017, satellite image released by DigitalGlobe shows an aerial overview of the village of Gu Dar Pyin, Myanmar. The Associated Press has confirmed more than five previously unreported mass graves in the Myanmar village of Gu Dar Pyin through multiple interviews with more than two dozen survivors in Bangladesh refugee camps and through time-stamped cellphone videos. The Myanmar government regularly claims massacres like Gu Dar Pyin never happened, and has acknowledged only one mass grave containing 10 "terrorists" in the village of Inn Din.

heard explosions from hand grenades and rocket launchers, he ran to the road. He was shot twice while trying to call his family. One of the bullets, still in his hip, can be seen when he pinches the skin.

His brother found him crawling on his hands and knees and carried him to some underbrush, where Younus lay for seven hours. At one point, he saw three trucks stop and begin loading dead bodies before heading off toward the cemetery.

Buddhist villagers then moved through Gu Dar Pyin in a sort of mopping-up operation, using knives to cut the throats of the injured, survivors said, and working with soldiers to throw small children and the elderly into the fires.

"People were screaming, crying, pleading for their lives, but the soldiers just shot continuously," said Mohammad Rayes, 23, a schoolteacher who climbed a tree and watched.

Kadir, the chinlone player, was shot twice in the foot but managed to drag himself under a bridge, where he removed one of the bullets himself. Then he watched, half-delirious, for 16 hours as soldiers, police and Buddhist neighbors killed unarmed Rohingya and burned the village.

"I couldn't move," he said. "I thought I was dead. I began to forget why I was there, to forget that all around me people were dying."

Near dawn, three boys creeping toward the bridge from another village to see what had happened heard Kadir's groans and brought him back with them.

For days, Rohingya from the area stole into Gu Dar Pyin

and rescued people who'd been left for dead by the soldiers. Thousands of people from the area hid deep in the jungle, stranded without food except for the leaves and trees they tried to eat. More than 20 infants and toddlers died because of the lack of food and water, villagers said.

A day after the shooting began, another group of survivors watched from a distant mountain as Gu Dar Pyin burned, the flames and smoke snaking up into a darkening sky.

THE MASS GRAVES

Six days after the massacre, Kadir risked his life to dodge the dozens of Myanmar soldiers occupying the local school so he could look for his four cousins. That's when he found his teammates half-buried in the mass graves. He also saw four plastic containers that turned out to contain acid.

In the next days and weeks, other villagers braved the soldiers to try to find whatever was left of their loved ones. Dozens of bodies littered the paths and compounds of the wrecked homes; they filled latrine pits. The survivors soon learned that taller, darker green patches of rice shoots in the paddies marked the spots where the dead had fallen.

As monsoon rains pounded the sometimes thin layer of dirt on the graves to mud, more bloated bodies began to rise to the surface.

"There were so many bodies in so many different places," said Mohammad Lalmia, 20, a farmer whose family owned a pond that became the largest of the mass graves. "They couldn't hide all the death."

Eleven days after the attack,

Lalmia set out to see if the soldiers had destroyed the Quran in the village mosque. He walked quickly along the edge of the jungle to the mosque, where he found torn pages from the Muslim sacred book scattered about.

As he tried to clean up, someone shouted that the soldiers were coming. He fled through an open window, looking back over his shoulder at about 15 patrolling soldiers.

When he turned back to the path, he stopped abruptly: A human hand stuck out of a cleared patch of earth.

Lalmia counted about 10 bodies on the grave's surface. Although he was worried about the military finding him, he used a six-foot bamboo stick to check the pit's depth. The stick disappeared into the loose soil, which made him think that the grave was deep enough to hold at least another 10 bodies.

"I was shocked to be that near so many bodies I hadn't known about," Lalmia said. He and other villagers also saw another large grave in the area.

He estimates that soldiers dumped about 80 bodies into his family's pond and about 20 in each of the other four major graves. He said about 150 other bodies were left where they fell.

Three of the big graves were in the north of the village. Two of those pits were about 15 feet wide and 7.5 feet long, villagers said. The pond, which Lalmia had helped dig, measured about nine feet deep and 112 square feet.

Many other smaller graves with three, five, seven, 10 bodies in them were scattered across Gu Dar Pyin. During a short walk, Abdul Noor, an 85-year-old farmer, saw three dead bodies stuffed into what might have been a latrine hole and covered with soil. He saw another two near some banana plants, and three in the corner of a compound.

"I tried to see more, but the stench was overwhelming and the soldiers were still at the school," he said.

Two other men separately said they saw another latrine filled with bodies and covered with a thin layer of soil. They said it contained between five and 10 bodies on the top, and thought there were at least five more corpses below.

After 12 days, Younus went to try to find four family members who'd been killed. He saw people in the graves without hair or skin who he thought had been burned with acid, and dozens of decomposing bodies in the rice fields.

The next day, on Sept. 9, vil-

lager Mohammad Karim, 26, captured three videos of mass graves that were time-stamped between 10:12 a.m. and 10:14 a.m., when he said soldiers chased him away. When he fled to Bangladesh, Karim removed the memory card from his phone, wrapped it in plastic and tied it to his thigh to hide it from Myanmar police.

In the Bangladesh refugee camps, nearly two dozen other Rohingya from Gu Dar Pyin confirmed that the videos showed mass graves in the north of the village. They easily picked out details from a geography they knew intimately, such as the way certain banana plants were positioned near rice paddies.

The videos show what appear to be bones wrapped in rotting clothing in a soupy muck. In one, the hands of a headless corpse grasp at the earth; most of the skin seems melted away by acid that has stained the earth blue. Nearby are two bloated legs clad in shorts. A few paces away, the bones of a rib cage emerge from the dirt.

The AP saw several other videos that appeared to show graves in the village, but only Karim's contained the original time stamps. In some cases, villagers said Myanmar soldiers took their phones and memory cards, sometimes at knife and gun point, at the checkpoints they had to pass through on the way to Bangladesh.

Some survivors never found the bodies of their loved ones.

Rohima Khatu, 45, recounted her story as tears streamed down the face of her 9-year-old daughter, Hurjannat, who sat silently by her mother's side.

Khatu was determined to find her husband, even though women risked not only death but rape if they were caught by the soldiers. Villagers said her husband was shot after he stayed home to protect their 10 cows, five chickens and eight doves, along with their rice stockpiles.

So 15 days after the massacre, she searched for him in the graves at Gu Dar Pyin's northern entrance, trying to identify him by the green lungi and white button-down shirt he had been wearing. Only 10 minutes passed before someone shouted that about 20 soldiers were coming.

"There were dead bodies everywhere, bones and body parts, all decomposing, so I couldn't tell which one was my husband," Khatu said. "I was weeping while I was there. I was crying loudly, 'Where did you go? Where did you go?'"

"I have lost everything."

Health & Fitness

What is this CICO diet, and is it really as bad as people are claiming?

By KAITLYN ALANIS
THE WICHITA EAGLE/TNS

As always, weight loss, healthy eating and more time spent exercising are sure to become topics of conversation. And, as expected, a trendy diet has already started to make its way across the internet, and it seems easy enough.

The diet, known as CICO, stands for "Calories In, Calories Out."

To follow, each day you simply must consume fewer calories than you expend on physical activity and

vital functions, including breathing and keeping warm, according to Health magazine.

So, if you are following the CICO diet and want to eat 600 calories worth of chips, you just need to lose 601 calories during that same day. Those in support of CICO argue that it does not matter what you eat as long as you create a daily calorie deficit.

"It meets the needs of people who 'want to have their cake and eat it, too' as long as the piece isn't too big," registered dietitian Sonya Angelone, a spokeswoman for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, told Women's Health magazine.

The CICO subreddit on Reddit is



The CICO diet is simply Calories In, Calories Out.

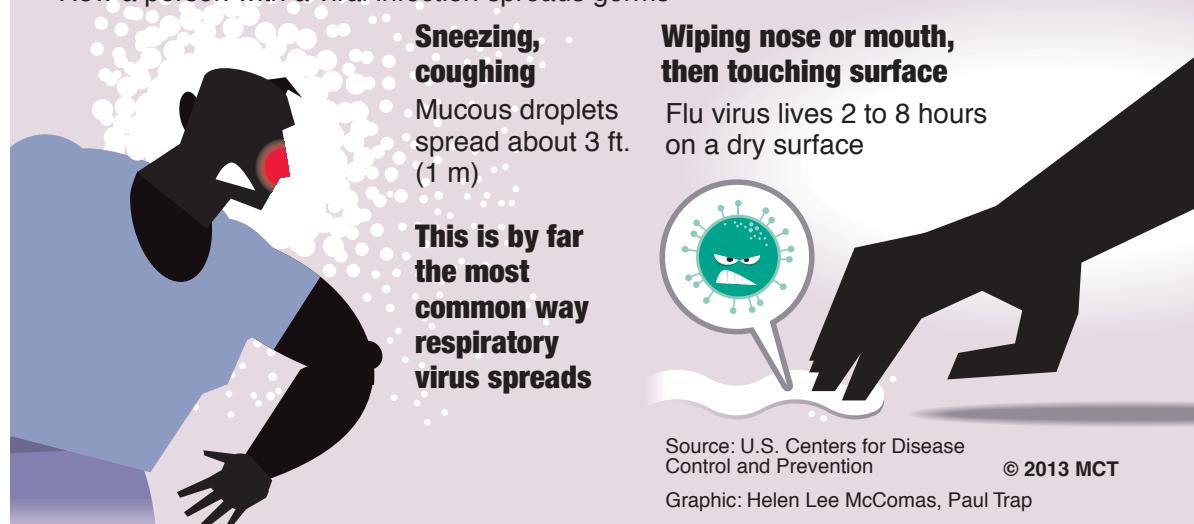
Personal Trainer

Avoiding flu virus at a gym

Many people keep exercising during the early stages of flu, bronchitis or a common cold, and they can infect the people around them.

'Shedding' viruses

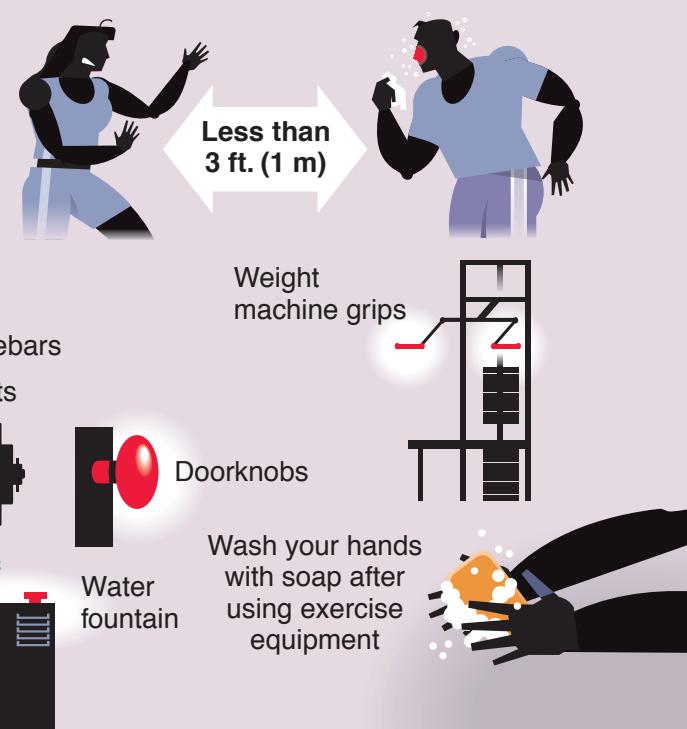
How a person with a viral infection spreads germs



Protecting yourself

Avoid close contact with people who sniff, sneeze or cough repeatedly as they exercise

After you touch a surface many other people have handled, avoid touching your own eyes or mouth



filled with the stories of CICO followers who credit the diet for losing weight.

One woman, who goes by the username StartledDungBeetle, said she is over 50 and credits the diet plan for losing 15 pounds in 55 days.

"All the zillion diet books I've read over the years made it all so damned complicated—when it is so simple," she wrote.

Another woman, Crazypeanut88, said she lost 46 pounds in 20 weeks with CICO.

"I eat everything I want to eat, just less of it," she wrote. "A lot less."

And while it seems simple, this diet is not much different than everything else—if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. The diet may help you lose weight, but will likely not help you get healthy.

"At the core of it, it's true that calories will rule things when it comes to weight loss," registered dietitian Dawn Jackson Blatner told Health magazine. "If you're eating just a ton, you're not aware of calories, you will not be successful. That is true in the most crude, raw possible way."

However, losing weight and getting healthy is about much more than calorie counting.

"Eating all junk, but keeping it low-calorie, will still wreak havoc on things like your skin, your mood, your gastrointestinal functions," dietitian Cynthia Sass told Health magazine.

She said CICO is an outdated way of thinking, as 300 calories from a blueberry muffin made with refined flour and sugar will not affect your body the same way a 300-calorie

muffin made with oats and topped with almonds and blueberries will.

Nutritionist Malina Linkas Malkani told Business Insider that the main problem with CICO is that users are only following the numbers.

"When people focus solely on a number of calories per day but eat only junk, they can end up suffering from a long list of issues," she said. "Being thin doesn't ensure health, and I think that's really a key thing people get confused on. There's always a focus on people that are very overweight, but thin people have heart attacks too."

Despite all the criticism on CICO—a quick 'CICO diet' Google search yields only negative results—some CICO users have only become more motivated.

Reddit user AceDynamicHero wrote that he/she heard a co-worker trash-talking the CICO diet.

"It actually boosted my mood," the user wrote. "Every time I watch this person eat something fattening or hear them scoff whenever I talk about my diet, it's gonna push me that much harder."

Reddit user MastermindX wrote that dozens of articles have been published trying to discredit the diet.

"They call CICO a 'new fad,' 'the latest thing,' 'a popular trend that is taking the internet by storm,' etc., implying the principle of 'eating less' is a novel concept that someone just came up with," the user wrote. "They all mention Reddit, sometimes in the title, and blame it for the spread of this dangerous fad, as they warn you about the dangers of believing what you read on the internet (ironically)."

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Life & Style

Uma Thurman levels accusations against Weinstein, Tarantino

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Uma Thurman, in long-awaited remarks, accused disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein of forcing himself on her sexually years ago in a London hotel room. Weinstein, through his attorney, acknowledged making an “awkward pass” but strongly denied any physical assault and suggested the possibility of legal action over her comments.

With the flu, Pink powers through pre-Super Bowl concert

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Battling the flu, pop star Pink powered through a pre-Super Bowl concert, still hitting high notes, flying in the air and dancing onstage days before she will sing the national anthem at the big game.

Pink skipped some of the words during the songs, relying on her backup singers Friday at Nomadic Live at the Armory in Minneapolis. But she was still energetic and spirited, ending the set with her signature high-flying athleticism while singing the pounding hit, “So What.”

The mother of two told the audience she had the flu and

In a separate allegation in the same New York Times article on Saturday, Thurman also said “Kill Bill” director Quentin Tarantino during filming coerced her into driving a car that she believed to be faulty, resulting in injuries including a permanently damaged neck, a con-



cussion and damage to her knees. A representative for Tarantino did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Thurman’s allegations against Weinstein, who has been accused of rape, assault or other sexual misconduct by scores of women, had been

ots take on the Philadelphia Eagles. The 38-year-old singer grew up about 30 miles from Philadelphia and gave a shout-out to the City of Brotherly Love during the show.

She wore a loose white top, loose white pants and red heels as she ran up and down the stage, kicking off the show with the jam “Get the Party Started.”

She later sang well-known hits like “U + Ur Hand,” “Who Knew,” “What About Us” and “Raise Your Glass.”

Despite feeling under the weather, she was exceptional when she covered 4 Non Blondes’ “What’s Up,” a crowd favorite.

widely anticipated since she hinted late last year that she had a story to tell but wanted to wait until she was less angry. Her story came in an in-

terview with Times columnist Maureen Dowd.

“I used the word ‘anger,’ but I was more worried about crying, to tell you the truth,”

Thurman was quoted as saying. “I was not a groundbreaker on a story I knew to be true. So what you really saw was a person buying time.”

Guillermo del Toro wins top Directors Guild Award

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.

(AP)—The fantasy romance “The Shape of Water” added another key prize in its awards season run with Guillermo del Toro’s win at the Directors Guild Awards Saturday.



del Toro

with an underwater creature, has emerged as the awards season front runner with a Producers Guild Award and a leading 13 Academy Award nominations.

Del Toro said his movie is one that

is, “Full of many reasons why it shouldn’t work and they are the reasons that it works.”

Jackson: I’m not performing at Super Bowl with Timberlake

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Together again? Not so much.

Janet Jackson has shut down any rumors that she will be joining Justin Timberlake during this year’s Super Bowl halftime show.

“To put to rest any speculation or rumors as to whether I will be performing at the Super Bowl tomorrow;

I will not,” Jackson said in a statement released Saturday. “Thank you for your support and I do look forward to seeing you all very soon.”

Timberlake is returning to the halftime show 14 years after a wardrobe malfunction with Jackson caused a national controversy. Timberlake was Jackson’s special guest during

He dedicated the honor to his mother and father, who has been ill.

He won out over fellow directors Greta Gerwig (“Lady Bird”), Martin McDonagh (“Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”), Christopher Nolan (“Dunkirk”) and Jordan Peele (“Get Out”), although Peele did win the prize for first-time feature film for his blockbuster horror film.

her performance at that year’s game and ripped off a piece of her clothing, revealing her nipple. Timberlake later described it as an unintended “wardrobe malfunction.”

CBS, which aired that Super Bowl, was fined \$550,000 by the Federal Communications Commission, but the fine later was overturned.

 **†Magdalena Hiroichi Tudela**
Lovingly known as “TANI”

Born to life on May 12, 1945 – Called to Eternal life on January 30, 2018

In her new life she now joins her:

Husband: †Herman Cepeda Tudela Sr. (Robit)
Parents: †Dorothea Ochob Wachi / †Juan Hiroichi & †Santiago C. Borja
Parents-in-Law: †Vicenta Ilano Cepeda Tudela / †Roberto Mendiola Tudela (Robit)
Siblings: †Faustino Kono, †Tagako Kono, †Attanacio Borja, †Jesus Borja, †Remedio Dondoyano, †Guadalupe Borja, †Joaquina Borja, †Martina Hiroichi
Godmother: †Justina Udui

Along with numerous brothers & sisters in law, aunts, uncle, nieces & nephews.

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children: Frank & Jo Ann Mc Phetres (Kolene, Frank, Zerahlene, Tasi Kai) Melvin & Faye Tudela (Conisha, Kaitani, Melvin John II, Anthon, Favilynn) Eric & Lillian Tudela (Eric Jr., Ethan, Evan, Logan, Felicity) Herman C. Tudela Jr. (Solena (David), Tasia, Herman III, Julie) Owen & Leilani D. Tudela (Kaitlyn Christina) Caria & Jason Tenorio (Roberto, Jay, Jose, Aria) Herlena & Joshua Flores (Harlan, Tiani, Joshua Jr.)

Great Grandchildren: Davielen Santos and Kolson Tudela

Siblings: Benita Cepeda & Children Marcela Satowski & Children Marino & Emi Hiroichi & Children Maria Teresita Agulto & Children

Dearest to her heart: Juan C. & Margarita D. Tudela

Along with numerous brothers & sisters in law, godchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, & nephews.

Daily mass of intentions are being offered every 6:00 p.m. at Santa Soledad Parish.
On Sunday, February 4, 2018, mass will be at 8:30 a.m.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, February 9, 2018. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to Santa Soledad Parish. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of the remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where she will be laid to a peaceful rest.
Please join us in prayers

The Children & Family

Girl power: Spice Girls confirm plans to work together again

Lady Gaga cancels European tour dates due to 'severe pain'

LONDON (AP)—Lady Gaga has canceled 10 concerts in Europe because of severe pain, the tour's promoter said Saturday.

Live Nation said the musician is "suffering from severe pain that has materially impacted her ability to perform live."

In a statement posted on social media, Lady Gaga said she was "devastated" to disappoint her fans. She said her medical team "is supporting the decision for me to recover at home."

The singer had been due to play Sunday and Thursday at London's O2 Arena as part of her Joanne World Tour. The other canceled concerts were in Manchester; Zurich; Cologne, Germany; Stockholm; Copenhagen, Denmark; Berlin and two shows in Paris.

Lady Gaga previously postponed her European shows in September after being hospitalized in Rio de Janeiro suffering from "severe physical pain."

In her statement, Gaga apologized to fans in Europe and Rio, saying "I love you, but this is beyond my control."

She resumed the tour in North America in November and in January played several dates in Europe.

The 31-year old singer-songwriter, whose real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, has spoken about suffering from fibromyalgia, a chronic pain condition.

Lady Gaga has been open about her physical and mental health struggles, saying in September she has been "searching for years to get to the bottom of them."

LONDON (AP)—The Spice Girls have confirmed plans to work together for the first time in six years, though details of the projects remain undisclosed.

Photos released Friday showed a meeting of Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham, Melanie "Sporty Spice" Chisholm, Emma "Baby Spice" Bunton, Melanie "Scary Spice" Brown and Geri "Ginger Spice" Horner.

Publicist Jo Milloy later released a statement saying "the time now feels right to explore

Pat Robertson is recovering after suffering a stroke

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Televangelist Pat Robertson is recovering after suffering an embolic stroke.

In an online news release,  T he Christian Broadcasting Network, which Robertson founded, says he was rushed to the nearest stroke center Friday after a family member recognized the onset of symptoms.

The release says that within minutes of receiving clot-busting drugs, Robertson was awake, responsive and able to move all his limbs.

The Virginia-based network says 87-year-old Robertson is alert and expected to make a full recovery.

In addition to founding The Christian Broadcasting Network, Robertson hosts its flagship show "The 700 Club."

some incredible new opportunities together."

It said new projects would "embrace the original essence

of the Spice Girls, while reinforcing our message of female empowerment for future generations."

The Sun newspaper says projects could include a TV talent show, though it said Saturday a live tour isn't planned.

The Spice Girls were a 1990s phenomenon, and last reunited at the 2012 London Olympics.



In this Sunday, Aug. 12, 2012 file photo, British band 'The Spice Girls' perform during the Closing Ceremony at the 2012 Summer Olympics, in London. AP

Paul Rudd honored as Hasty Pudding Man of the Year

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Actor and screenwriter Paul Rudd picked up his 2018 Man of the Year award from the nation's oldest collegiate theatrical organization at Harvard University on Friday night.

Rudd received the Hasty Pudding honor during a black-tie event. The Boston Globe reported the actor was celebrated in a roast that targeted his "dad face" and his past as a bar mitzvah DJ.

Hasty Pudding said it chose the "Ant-Man" star because

his career has spanned many genres, from indies to mainstream films, from heartfelt comedies to superheroes.

He plays the lead in the upcoming "The Catcher Was a Spy," the real-life story of Ivy Leaguer and major league ballplayer Moe Berg, a spy with the forerunner of the CIA during World War II.

"Filming in Fenway was one of the greatest days I've ever had in my life, let alone my acting life," Rudd said Friday.



Actor Paul Rudd holds his pudding pot trophy during a roast at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., Friday, Feb. 2, 2018. AP

Thieves swipe \$165K in jewelry from John Stamos' fiancee

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Police say burglars stole \$165,000 in jewelry from a room at the Beverly Hills Hotel that was occupied by actor John Stamos'

fiancee.

A police statement says Caitlin McHugh was away from her room Friday evening when a crook or crooks got in and took several items

pregnant, is marrying Stamos this weekend.

A message seeking comment from Stamos' publicist wasn't immediately returned Saturday.

Family splinters in response to transgender son-in-law

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter, "Joan," and her husband, "Frank," have been married 19 years. Their only child will be 4 next month. A year and a half ago, Frank came out as a transgender female. Joan is handling this exceptionally well. Our son, "Alex," is not.

Our family will never have the traditional holidays again because Alex doesn't want his daughters, ages 13 and 10, around Frank. We are heartbroken, worried for our children and confused about how to handle this new family dynamic. Joan plans on remaining in her marriage. Frank is legally changing his name to "Anissa," taking hormones and excited to live her "real life."

In the meantime, we feel like outsiders looking in. These individuals, all in their 40s, are able to do what they want with their lives—yet they're our children. We have enjoyed so many years of what we thought was a normal life. The thought of never having our family all together in our home again is upsetting. I suppose this scenario happens often, but how do you suggest we cope?

OUT OF SORTS IN WASHINGTON

DEAR OUT OF SORTS: Cope by taking it day by day and making adjustments as necessary. You are not on the outside looking in. You are full-fledged participants in this scenario.

Your new daughter-in-law is the same person she has always been. She's not a danger to anyone's daughters. If your son can't accept that, there is nothing you can do about it. Let him know he is always welcome—as is Anissa—at family celebrations. If he can't bring himself to attend, see him and the girls separately.

If I have learned one thing in my lifetime, it is to take each day as it comes and make the most of it. Do not look back, pining for days gone by, and do not obsess about things you can't control. Think positive and you will get through this.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our neighbor has been hospitalized for six months because of a serious accident that left him paralyzed. His wife has been staying in the city near the hospital so she can be with him. My husband and I have been keeping an eye on their house and, at their request, moving their truck in the driveway so it appears someone is home.

The husband returned home a few weeks ago. We received a thank-you card from his wife. Inside was \$50 in gift cards. We appreciate the thought behind the gift, but would like to return the gift cards. We helped them out with no expectation of anything in return. How do we go about returning them without offending our neighbors?

GOOD DEED NEIGHBORS

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



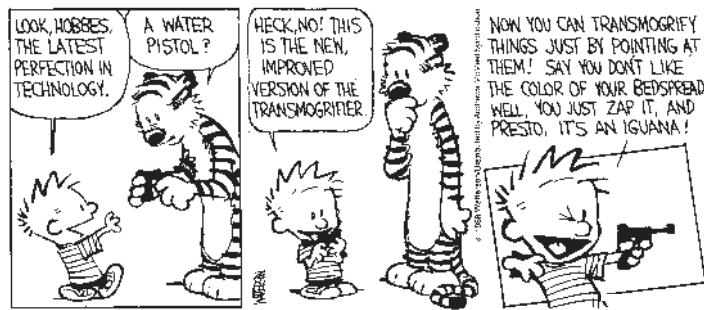
DEAR NEIGHBORS: I don't think you should return them. To not accept them in the spirit in which they were given would be doing the couple a disservice. Sometimes the burden of gratitude weighs heavy. This is your neighbors' way of showing you how much your efforts meant to them, so accept the gesture graciously.

■ ■ ■

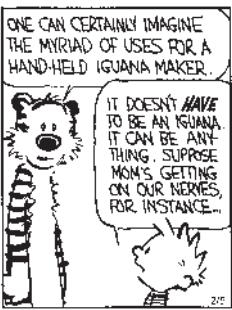
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

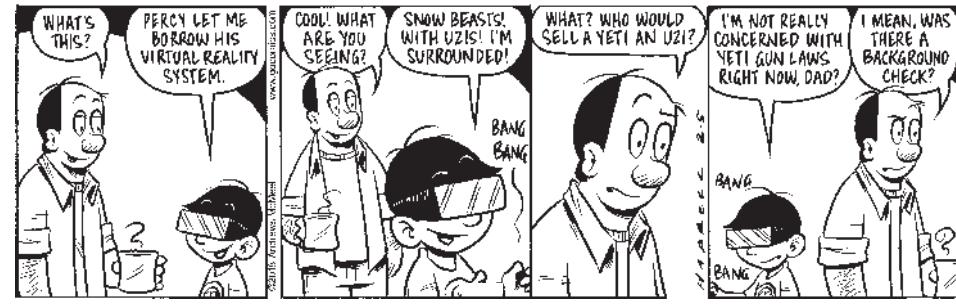


By Bill Waterson

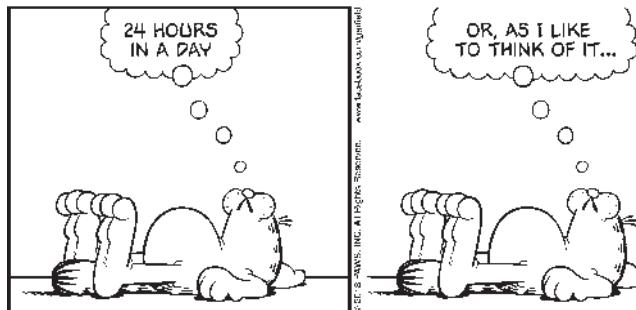
**Garfield®**

By Jim Davis

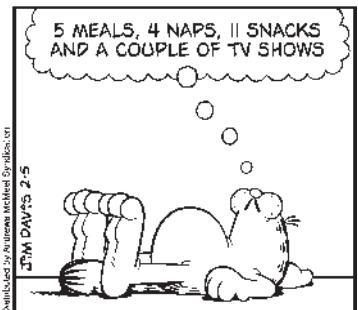
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

**The Duplex**

By Glenn McCoy



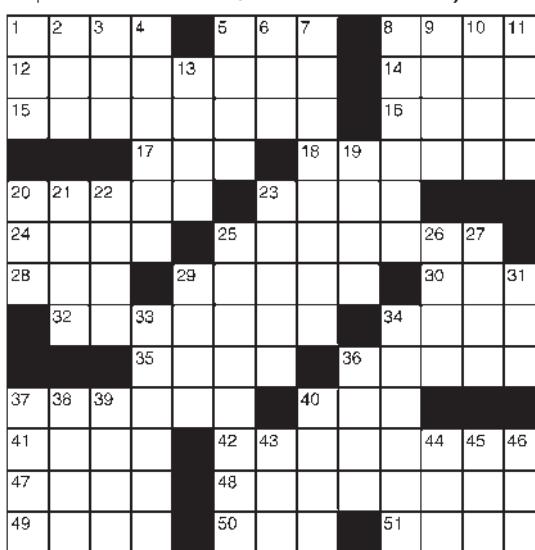
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Handbag handles	5	Undo a dele	22	Venus de—	
1	—mater	40	—Diego	6	Mel of baseball	23	Bearded farm animals
5	Turf	41	King of the jungle	7	Reveal	25	Trucker in a union
8	Apple tablet	42	Feet, slangily	8	Tel Aviv's land	26	Wax-coated cheese
12	New Year's Eve shower	47	Sick as—	9	Words-worth	27	Use scissors
14	Fizzy drink	48	Wears out	10	Father of 34-	29	Coin toss
15	Carpenters' collections	49	Seeger or Sampras	11	Actress	31	Year in Acapulco
16	Authentic	50	Kanga's kid	12	Quarrel	33	Yarn color
17	Likely	51	Quarrel	13	Catch sight of	34	Population count
18	Cool and damp	14	Do something	19	Riga native	36	"Toodle-o!"
20	Call from a nursery	15	Brit's restroom	20	Calendar abbr.	37	High-five sound
23	Jubilation	16	L-P link	21	Last writes?	38	Ocean motion
24	Theater award	17	Burning	40	Manhattan area	39	Source
25	Plays the flute	18	Solution time: 26 mins.	41	Kitchen gadget brand	43	40 AOL, for one
28	Goose egg	19	CAP MESA HOE ORAN CANS	44	44 AOL, for one	45	Greek vowel
29	Banquet	20	HOE ORAN CANS	46	46 Bygone jet	46	46 Bygone jet
30	"CSI" find	21	OLDWORLD STIR EONS WHOLE				
32	Not in time	22	EMTS OVERWITH RNA SWINE DAY				
34	First son	23	OILWELLS SEND HESS STAGE				
35	Eyeglass frames	24	CRFAM FOOL HAH! OPENWIDE				
36	Musical pace	25	UGLI PITAZOO				
		26	BEEF TEAN ETS				
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		28					
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Last Friday's Answer

02-05



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Darren Criss, 31; Michael Sheen, 49; Jennifer Jason Leigh, 56; Barbara Hershey, 70.

Happy Birthday: The changes you make should be for a reason, not to show off or outdo someone. The best motive is to do something because it will make you a better person. Share your joy, knowledge and laughter with those you love. Turn this into a heartfelt year and a time you will look back on with fond memories. Your numbers are 3, 16, 22, 28, 37, 42, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your spontaneity will help you jump from one situation to another without giving much thought to consequences. You'll accomplish a lot if you stay on track and let your intelligence and insight lead the way. Love and romance are highlighted. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A steady pace will get you where you want to go. Don't take detours or let anyone sidetrack you. Follow the path you know will bring you the rewards you are looking for. Take advantage of opportunities and forge ahead. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take what belongs to you and keep moving forward. Use your skills, talents and charm to help you get what you want. High energy and innovative ideas will help you gain acceptance and support. Personal improvements will boost your confidence. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't act impulsively. It's best to listen carefully and figure out a way to utilize your

skills in order to come up with a workable plan. A responsible attitude and patience will help you come out on top. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Partnerships, communication and sorting through any differences you have with others will bring you closer to resolving unfinished business. Personal improvements can be made as long as you are moderate and money-conscious. A romantic gesture will be well-received. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mix practicality, precision and innovative ideas, and you will come up with a winning combination that will help you excel. Make personal improvements that will boost your confidence and make what you have to present more appealing. **★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a step forward and begin the process of getting what you want. Laziness or indulgent tendencies will not bring you closer to what you want to achieve. Don't wait for others to do things for you -- take action now. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Secrets will be kept. Be careful what you divulge and how you handle others. Take a disciplined approach to whatever you want to pursue and stick with it until you accomplish your goals. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Being involved will help you gain knowledge and experience. Participate in activities that will encourage you to take on new responsibilities. You'll meet interesting people while helping others. Romance will improve your personal life. **★★★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get ready to face your problems head-on. Prepare to recap what's happened in the past to avoid making similar mistakes in the future. Don't let the changes made by others prompt you to be a follower. **★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look at the big picture and make your plans according to what you know you can accomplish. Time spent with the people you are most familiar with will encourage good times, love and happiness. Personal gains look promising. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of unfinished matters that pertain to ex-partners or joint affairs that are still hanging over your head. The change may be difficult, but once complete, you will feel energized and able to move forward. **★★★**

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, playful and aggressive. You are opportunistic and perceptive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	6		1	
6	5	2	4	
	9		2	
	4		7	6
5			3	
9	1	7	2	
7		5		
8		9	3	4
4			2	9

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	8	2	3	6	5	1	4	9
6	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	7
9	4	5	1	8	7	2	6	3
8	3	7	5	4	1	6	9	2
1	6	4	2	9	8	7	3	5
5	2	9	7	3	6	4	8	1
2	5	8	6	1	9	3	7	4
3	7	6	4	5	2	9	1	8
4	9	1	8	7	3	5	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD</h2

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EMPLOYMENT

(1) General Maintenance-\$7.55/hr. with 4-years experience. Email Green Corp. at greencorp670@gmail.com.

Sam Sons Inc.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Operation Manager

4-5 yrs experience.
Salary: \$7.05 - \$7.25/hr.

All interested applicants may send resume to ming@pacificacticalsupply.com



EMPLOYMENT

(1) Maintenance Repairer-\$7.05/hr. with 4-years exp. Email JJ Brother Corp. at jjbrothercorp@gmail.com.

L.C. CONSTRUCTION

IS LOOKING FOR

(3) GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORKERS

Rate: \$7.05 - \$7.25 per hour

With at least 5 years experience. Must be able to work flexible hours. With valid driver's license.

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lcconstruction48@gmail.com



Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Rd., Dandan
P.O. Box 501585, Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 234-7645

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
ASSISTANT ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN**

DUTIES: Assist in performing field and laboratory testing, and soil investigations; prepare draft reports based on project observations and inspections; input field and laboratory data; communicate with clients, project managers, and others regarding projects; and other duties as assigned by supervisor.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or GED, at least 1 year of relevant experience and/or training, computer proficient, valid CNMI driver's license, and good oral and written communication skills.

HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications (plus overtime)

Applications are available at www.marianasgeotech.com and at the MGS office in Dandan, and must be submitted by **February 19, 2018**, to Chelsea Borja at admin@marianasgeotech.com or at the MGS office.

Job Vacancy Announcement

**B & L CORPORATION
dba BL MACHINE SHOP**

Needs 4 Machinist

- Knowledgeable in Fabrication and Modifying parts metal & non metal
- At least have 3 years Experience in Machining Job

Contact Number : 235-2567

Apartment/House Cleaner

1 year experience in cleaning commercial & residential establishments.

Minimum salary

Please send resume to
P.O. Box 501555 CK, Saipan MP 96950
or email to jacris4916@yahoo.com

LOOKING TO HIRE

**Electricians
and Helpers**

Bring resume to Marianas Business Plaza (3rd floor – 309)
For more information, contact Alan at 285-5499 or 234-4800

REQ Day & Night Child Care

Job Vacancy Announcement

(7) Day Care Workers

- CCDF or DCCA Certification Required
- Willing to work flexible hours
- Must be reliable
- Medical Background is a plus
- Three years' experience in Child Care

(4) Teachers

- BSE/ED Graduate
- Three years' experience in head start, pre-school and afterschool teaching
- Must be computer literate
- Must have tutorial experience
- Certification in tutorial is a plus.

Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

If interested, please email resume to reqchildcare@yahoo.com

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (1) Chief Accountant | (1) Maintenance Technician |
| (1) Production Manager | (1) Refrigeration & Aircon Technician |
| (6) Accountant | (1) Production Clerk |
| (18) Baker | (1) Production Supervisor |
| (3) Cake Decorator | (2) Sales Representative |
| (1) Catering Coordinator | (3) Food Service Worker |
| (7) Cook | (1) Executive Secretary |
| (1) Cook Assistant | (1) Warehouseman |
| (2) Packer | |

Interested applicants may send their resume to sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com or pick-up an application form at our HR office at Tun Herman Pan Road (Airport Road).

NOW HIRING**AQUARIUS BEACH TOWER****Job Position: Front Desk Clerk**

Job Description: Performs routine clerical, administrative work in answering phones, customer assistance and organize record keeping. Perform checking in and checking out of guests. Taking in reservation requests and handling of guests inquiries.

Requirements:

- Hotel experience as Front Desk Personnel preferred
- Knowledge of Room Master
- Positive attitude and excellent communications skills
- Can multi-task and work flexible hours
- Team player

Interested individuals may apply in person at the 2nd Floor Office of Jones and Guerrero Building (next to Hollywood Video Shop), Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday. Or you may send your resume to townhousesaipan@gmail.com no later than February 7, 2018.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: January 26, 2018 • CLOSING DATE: February 26, 2018 • TIME: 4:30 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2018-001	1-Special Assistant for Housing and LIHTC Programs	\$35,000-\$50,000 (UNGRADED) (salary will be determined by the qualification of the applicant)
2018-002	1-Appliance Technician I	PL 10-01 to PL 10-04 \$23,394.03 to \$27,081.51-per annum
2018-003	1-Collector	PL 12-01 to PL 12-05 \$25,791.92 to \$31,350.24-per annum

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

WHATZIT Solution: A flat tire

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15
• 5-Liner	\$24

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

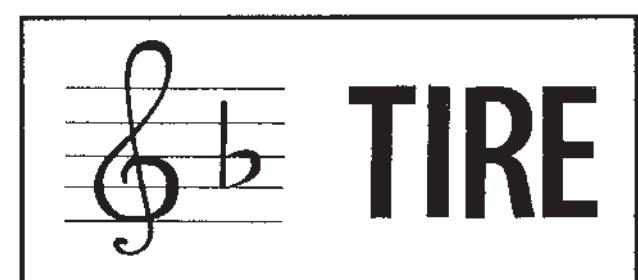
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Nuggets rally in 4th quarter to stun Warriors



DENVER—The Nikola Jokic and Gary Harris combination worked so well that Denver went back to it two days later.

It wasn't scripted, but it paid off anyway.

Jokic hit a go-ahead 3-pointer off a missed dunk by Harris, and the Nuggets rallied to beat the Golden State Warriors 115-108 on Saturday night.

Jokic finished with 19 points and nine rebounds, Will Barton had 25 points and Harris 16 for the Nuggets, who split the four games with Golden State this season. Denver rallied from 12 down in the first half to hand the Warriors their second loss in three games.

Kevin Durant scored 31 points and Stephen Curry had 24 for Golden State.

"It was huge, especially coming off an emotional win over (Oklahoma City)," Harris said. "For us to come and get the defending world champs was huge."

Harris hit the game winner against the Thunder on Thursday when Jokic found him with an inbounds pass with 1.4 seconds left and he drained a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

This time Harris drove the baseline and went up to dunk, but Durant got a hand on it. The ball went out to Jokic in the corner, and he calmly drained a 3-pointer with 2:10 left to give the Nuggets a 107-104 lead.

"Missed, dunk, layup, pass, assist. That was huge," Jokic said. "I thought I heard the whistle because everybody stopped. I'm just going to shoot it. I'm glad I made it because I didn't think about it."

After Curry missed a 26-footer, Jokic hit two free throws to make it 109-104 and Denver closed it out.

"It was a tie ballgame, things had gone our way to the point where Gary Harris goes up for a dunk," Curry said. "It was just one of those lucky kind of bounces, right to Jokic and he knocks down a 3 and he gets the crowd into it."

Harris joked he deserved an assist on the play but wasn't credited with one.

"It was definitely a pass and I'm sticking with it," he said.

Durant, who didn't attempt a shot in the first quarter, was 12 of 16 from the field the rest of the game. He had nine points in the fourth when Golden State appeared to take control, but Denver rallied to take a 102-99 lead on Barton's 3-pointer.

The Warriors still had a chance down 109-105 but Nick Young missed everything on a 3-point attempt. He and Durant were then hit with technicals and Jamal Murray



AP Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, left, tries to move the ball as Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry defends in the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018, in Denver.

for the Pistons, including a late 3-pointer of his own. Detroit has won three in a row, the last two with Griffin in the lineup after acquiring him in a trade.

Griffin's 3-pointer with 44 seconds to play put the Pistons ahead 108-101, but Goran Dragic responded with a four-point play, making a 3-pointer while being fouled with 32 seconds left. Detroit ran the clock down on the next possession, and Smith sank his only 3-point attempt of the game, from the right corner with 14 seconds to play.

Pacers 100, 76ers 92

In Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo and Bojan Bogdanovic each scored 19 points and Indiana beat Philadelphia.

Oladipo added nine rebounds and four assists. Domantas Sabonis scored 10 points, grabbed eight rebounds and had six assists. Lance Stephenson finished with 14 points and nine rebounds off the bench for Indiana.

Joel Embiid finished with 24 points and 10 rebounds.

Wizards 115, Magic 98

In Orlando, Otto Porter scored 20 points and Tomas Satoransky had a career-high 19 to lift Washington over Orlando.

Bradley Beal had 18 points, eight rebounds and eight assists as the Wizards won their fourth straight without injured All-Star point guard John Wall.

Washington shot 54 percent and had 35 assists, the fourth straight game with 30 or more.

Timberwolves 118, Pelicans 107

In Minneapolis, Jimmy Butler scored 30 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points and 16 rebounds for his league-leading 47th double-double, and Minnesota beat New Orleans.

In front of a capacity crowd dotted with celebrities in town for Sunday's Super Bowl, the Wolves dominated from the start en route to their 12th straight home win and a four-game season sweep of the Pelicans.

Anthony Davis led New Orleans with 38 points and managed to keep the Pelicans from getting completely blown out in the first quarter, when the Wolves opened a 22-6 lead.

Jazz 120, Spurs 111

In San Antonio, Ricky Rubio scored a season-high 34 points and added nine assists, and Utah upended San Antonio for its fifth straight victory.

San Antonio had possession trailing 112-109, but Jazz forward Derrick Favors batted down a pass near the 3-point line and raced down the court for a monstrous one-handed dunk to essentially seal the Jazz's second win over the Spurs this season.

Mavericks 106, Kings 99

In Sacramento, Yogi Ferrell made consecutive 3-pointers to spark a big run at the start of the fourth quarter and Dallas beat Sacramento to snap a five-game losing streak.

Dirk Nowitzki had 15 points and seven rebounds while inching closer to another milestone in his illustrious NBA career. Harrison Barnes scored 18 points and Dwight Powell added 17 points and nine rebounds to help Dallas win in Sacramento for the first time in nearly three years.

Nowitzki played 26 minutes and needs six more to become sixth player in NBA history to reach 50,000 for his career, joining a list that includes Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, Kevin Garnett, Jason Kidd and Elvin Hayes.

Clippers 113, Bulls 103

In Los Angeles, Tobias Harris scored 24 points in his Clippers debut, leading Los Angeles over Chicago.

Danilo Gallinari also had 24 points, Lou Williams added 21 points and six assists, and Montrezl Harrell scored 14 to help the Clippers win for the third time in four games.

Zach LaVine had 21 points and nine rebounds in the Bulls' sixth straight loss.

hit the free throws with 28 seconds left.

Rockets 120, Cavaliers 88

In Cleveland, Chris Paul had 22 points and 11 assists, Ryan Anderson added 21 points and the Houston Rockets became the latest team to thump Cleveland on national TV, beating the disconnected Cavaliers on Saturday night.

James Harden only scored 16—15 below his league-leading average—but Houston rolled to its fourth straight win and improved to 11-2 since Jan. 8.

Meanwhile, the Cavs' downward spiral accelerated.

Since losing at Golden State on Christmas, LeBron James and his teammates are 0-8 in network broadcasts and have been embarrassed in several matchups against

quality teams.

James finished with just 11 points and didn't play in the fourth quarter as the Rockets were too far ahead.

Pistons 111, Heat 107

In Detroit, Andre Drummond had 23 points and 20 rebounds, and Blake Griffin made a key 3-pointer in the final minute to lift Detroit over Miami.

Ish Smith added 25 points

than 2:55 this year, Manfred said. A person familiar with the plan told The Associated Press the proposal called for an 18-second timer and only with no runners on base, and ball-strike penalties would not start until May 1. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because those details were not announced.

MLB proposed if the average time of a nine-inning game in 2019 is 2:50 or higher, a 20-second pitch clock with runners on base would be added for 2020, the person said. MLB did not set a specific deadline for the union to reach an agreement.

The average time of a nine-inning game was a record 3:05 last year and has not been at 2:55 or below since 2011 and at 2:50 or under since 2006.

Talks began after the 2016 but Manfred said just one

meeting that included players was held during the 2017 season, last August in Washington, D.C. He said the next 10 days are important in negotiations but has not set a specific deadline for a deal. Players start reporting to spring training Feb. 14 and big league exhibition games begin Feb. 23.

"They are well aware that we have a calendar that is ticking," Manfred said. "We're waiting for some sort of response as to our last suggestion."

The union acknowledges pace of play is an issue but has resisted a pitch clock, which has been used at Triple-A and Double-A for three seasons.

"They think it could be addressed without a pitch clock," Manfred said. "I don't see it as something that needs to be the source of great contentiousness between us and the players."

MLB would drop 2018 pitch clock if players agree to phase-in



LOS ANGELES (AP)—

Major League

Baseball has offered to ditch its proposal for a pitch clock this year and also would go without one in 2019 if the average time of a nine-inning game drops to at least 2 hours, 55 minutes this season.

Speaking after a quarterly owners meeting ended Thursday, baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said owners authorized him to implement management's proposal from last offseason, which calls for a 20-second pitch clock this year, if an agreement cannot be reached with the players' association. Management has proposed a deal that would phase in new rules over the next three seasons.

"We remain 100 percent committed to the idea that we need to make changes to address pace of game and that

the best way to address pace of game for us, for the players and most importantly for our fans is to get an agreement with the players," Manfred said. "There is a strong sentiment among ownership that we need to do something about pace of play this year."

Manfred thought he was close to a deal during the off-season but union head Tony Clark told him players rejected the proposal and said "he didn't think he was in a position to make any agreement on the topic."

MLB listened to player's public comments and at a Jan. 23 meeting attended by Manfred, deputy commissioner Dan Halem and Clark, MLB proposed no clock this year as part of a three-year plan, Manfred said. There would be a pitch clock in 2019 if the average time of a nine-inning game is higher

Eagle way is similar to Patriot way: No egos

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP)—Bill Belichick's impressive resume makes it easy for the five-time championship head coach to mandate that players check their egos before joining the New England Patriots.



Doug Pederson didn't have a hard sell, either.

The Philadelphia Eagles are an unselfish group that prioritizes winning over personal accomplishments. It's a major reason why the Eagles (15-3) are playing the Patriots (15-3) in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

"It's a group that doesn't really care who gets the ball. The bottom line is trying to win the game," Pederson said. "I didn't have to sell it too much."

Pederson was 7-9 last year in his rookie season as head coach but has guided the Eagles from worst to first in search of the franchise's first NFL title since 1960. He found a way to blend a young locker room with a mix of accomplished veterans.

The team added veteran receivers Alshon Jeffrey and

Torrey Smith, running backs LeGarrette Blount and Jay Ajayi, defensive linemen Chris Long and Tim Jernigan and defensive backs Ronald Darby, Patrick Robinson and Corey Graham.

"I can remember this team showing up in April and talking about being at this place, talking about our dreams, aspirations and focusing on a grind," safety Malcolm Jenkins said.

"Guys being unselfish, adding guys along the way that added to the team and continued to push, and every time we won and had some success—we even had some adversity—the team believed more and more. It's been awesome to be a part of."

Blount led the NFL with 18 touchdowns rushing and earned his second Super Bowl ring last season in New England. He didn't get a carry in a loss at Kansas City in Week 2 and never complained. Same with Jeffery, who went from No. 1 receiver in Chicago to being one of the guys in Philadelphia.

"We couldn't care less how



many catches or how many carries or how many yards any one guy has," Blount said. "We all have one common goal in hand. We all have one

thing that we all want more than anything. You can't be selfish when everybody has one common goal because you have to make sacrifices for the better of the team. We've done that and it's gotten us this far."

Pederson set the tone and Carson Wentz carried it out with his team-first attitude and

that filtered down the roster. "He's the most humble guy you come across," Pederson said. "He'll give it right back to the team."

It was a smooth transition to Nick Foles after Wentz got hurt. Foles also is a respected leader who leads by example. It's not a coincidence the Ea-

Brady wins MVP, Rams get 3 awards



MINNEAPO- LIS (AP)—For the third time, Tom Brady is the NFL's Most Valuable Player.

Now he goes for his sixth Super Bowl title, and perhaps with it a fifth MVP trophy for the NFL championship.

Brady added The Associated Press 2017 NFL MVP award Saturday night at NFL Honors to his wins in 2007 and 2010. The New England Patriots quarterback was joined as an honoree by three Los Angeles Rams: Coach of the Year Sean McVay, Offensive Player of the Year running back Todd Gurley and Defensive Player of the Year tackle Aaron Donald.

Other winners in voting by a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league were Los Angeles Chargers receiver Keenan Allen as Comeback Player; New Orleans running back Alvin Kamara and cornerback Marshon Lattimore as top offensive and defensive rookies, respectively; and former Minnesota Vikings offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur, now head coach of the New York Giants, as Assistant Coach of the Year.

Brady is the second the player in the four major professional sports to win MVP at age 40; Barry Bonds won baseball's award in 2004.

Wide receiver Julian Edelman, who missed the entire season with a knee injury, accepted for Brady.

"Thanks, thanks. Wait up. I literally just found out I was doing this like 20 minutes ago. So, I've got to read the text," Edelman said.

"No, but I'm joking. But serious, Tom said he wanted to say he's very honored and humbled that he gets this award for MVP. Also, he wanted to thank his teammates, his friends, his family and the Patriots organization for going out and doing what they do."

Brady competed 385 of 581 passes (66.2 percent) for 4,577 yards and 32 touchdowns with eight interceptions as New England went 13-3 for the AFC's best record. At an age when many QBs are deep into retirement, Brady is throwing deep—and short—as well as ever.

Donald was the first pure defensive tackle to win the award since Warren Sapp in 1999. He said it means "everything. That's one of the best to ever do it. So, even for my name to be next to that guy's name is beyond a blessing. This is what you dream about as a kid, dreaming about playing in the NFL to have success like this, to be able to (play good enough) to win this trophy."

Gurley's sensational turnaround season in which he ran for 13 touchdowns and

caught six TD passes sparked an equally impressive reversal of fortunes by his team, which won the NFC West at 11-5.

"The Saints got the rookies and we took home the offensive and defensive" player awards," Gurley noted. "It just tells you the type of players we have on the team. We all help each other out, absolutely. We have some talent, but we're nothing without the whole nine yards and everybody together. And we also have a coach who's up for Coach of the Year."

A little while later, McVay was handed the coaching award.

In his first season running a team and as the youngest head coach in NFL history, McVay led the Rams to a seven-game improvement. McVay, who turned 32 on Jan. 24, ran away with the voting with 35 votes to 11 for Minnesota's Mike Zimmer.

"What it means is we had a good season that I think we can build on," McVay said. "But you have to earn it every single day. It's a very humbling league."

The Rams' hat trick of awards was not unprecedented. In 2003, Baltimore's Ray Lewis was top defensive player, Jamal Lewis won best offensive player, and Terrell Suggs was Defensive Rookie of the Year. And in 1999, the St. Louis Rams had three award winners: Kurt Warner (MVP), Marshall Faulk (Offensive Player) and Dick Vermeil (Coach).

"He's the most humble guy you come across," Pederson said. "He'll give it right back to the team."

It was a smooth transition to Nick Foles after Wentz got hurt. Foles also is a respected leader who leads by example. It's not a coincidence the Ea-

gle way is similar to Patriot way: No egos

—By AP Staff Writer Mark Schlereth

AP Members of the Philadelphia Eagles go through a practice for the NFL Super Bowl 52 football game Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018, in Minneapolis. Philadelphia is scheduled to face the New England Patriots Sunday.

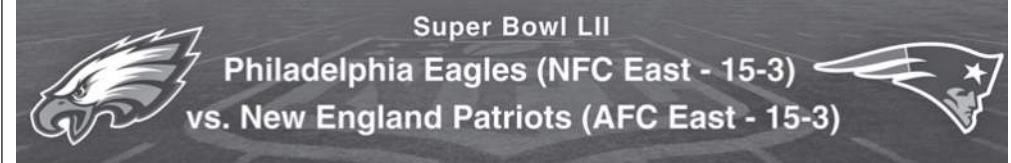
gles sought this type of player.

"This is the most selfless team I've ever been around," Pro Bowl tight end Zach Ertz said. "Guys don't care about stats. They only care about winning. Doug is the best coach I've been around in managing players. He lets us show our personalities and if he needs to talk to somebody, he does it quietly and in a mild-mannered way. His selfless leadership is a big reason we're here."

The team is one of the closest-knit groups in the league and players genuinely care about each other and spent plenty of time together.

"When you see guys hanging out with players from other position groups, it's special," defensive tackle Fletcher Cox said. "I would go eat dinner with Donnie Jones. You don't see a guy hanging out with a punter."

If the Eagles win a few championships, perhaps the standard Pederson has set will eventually become similar to Belichick's Patriot Way. They have to get the first win first.

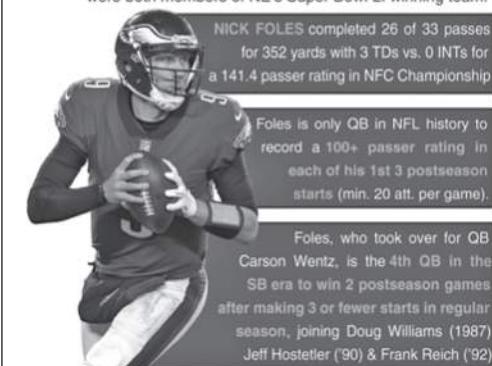


GAME NOTES

This is 3rd Super Bowl in which each team ranked in top 5 in both points scored & fewest points allowed (IV & XIII).

EAGLES

- QB NICK FOLES – completed 26 of 33 (78.8 pct.) for 352 yards with 3 TDs & 0 INTs for 141.4 rating in NFC Champ Game. Is only QB in NFL history to have 100+ rating in each of 1st 3 career postseason starts (min. 20 att/game). In 2017 postseason, is 2-0 with 122.1 rating. Foles is 4th QB in SB era to win 2 postseason games after making 3 or fewer starts in regular season.
- RB LE GARRETTE BLOUNT – has rush TD in both playoff games this season. Has 10 career rush TDs in postseason (incl. 8 with NE), most among active players.
- RB JAY AJAYI – has led club in rushing yards & scrimmage yards in both 2017 playoff games. Averaging 98.5 scrimmage yards per game in postseason.
- WR ALSHON JEFFERY – had 2 TD catches in NFC Champ Game, incl. 53-yard TD. WR TORREY SMITH had 41-yard rec. TD & TE ZACH ERTZ had 8 catches for 93 yards vs. Min. Foles became 1st QB in NFL history with 40+ yard completion to 3 different players in single playoff game: Jeffery (53 yards), WR NELSON AGHOLOR (42) & Smith (41).
- S MALCOLM JENKINS – had 99-yard INT-TD in last game vs. NE (12/6/15). CB PATRICK ROBINSON – had 50-yard INT-TD in NFC Champ Game. DE BRANDON GRAHAM led team with career-high 9.5 sacks. Rookie DE DEREK BARNETT – had sack & FF vs. Min. Since entering league in 2012, DT FLETCHER COX – is 1 of 7 NFL DTs with 45+ TFL (45) & 30+ sacks (34). DE CHRIS LONG had FR in NFC Champ Game. Long & RB Blount were both members of NE's Super Bowl LI winning team.



Source: NFL
Graphic: Staff, TNS

PATRIOTS

- QB TOM BRADY – is all-time Super Bowl leader in pass yards (2,071), comp. (207), att. (309) & TD passes (15). Set Super Bowl record with 466 pass yards in Super Bowl LI. Is making NFL-record 8th career Super Bowl start & is only starting QB in league history to win 5 Super Bowls. Has won 4 Super Bowl MVP awards (XXXVI, XXXVIII, XLIX & LI), most in NFL history. Is postseason leader in career att. (1,416), comp. (892), pass yards (9,721) & pass TDs (68). Is 27-9 (.750) as starter in postseason, most wins by QB in league annals. Led NFL with 4,577 pass yards & ranked 1st in AFC with 32 TD passes, both most by QB at age 40 or older.
- RB DION LEWIS – led team with career-high 896 rush yards. Has 207 scrimmage yards (103.5 per game) in past 2 postseason games. Has 573 scrimmage yards (114.6 per game) with 5 TDs (3 rush, 2 rec.) in past 5 (incl. playoffs).
- RB JAMES WHITE – has 6 TDs (4 rush, 2 rec.) in past 3 postseason games. Since 2016 playoffs, leads NFL with 7 TDs (4 rush, 3 rec.) & 44 points in postseason play. Tied Super Bowl record with 3 TDs (2 rush, 1 rec.) last year.
- DT ROB GRONKOWSKI – has 10 career TD catches in postseason, most among TEs in league annals & tied for 3rd most in NFL history. Has 856 career rec. yards in playoffs, most by TE in NFL history. Has 7 TD catches in his past 7 postseason games. WR DANNY AMENDOLA – has 274 rec. yards (91.3 per game) & 3 TD catches in past 3 playoff games. Had 2 TD catches in 4th Q of AFC Champ Game.
- LB KYLE VAN NOY – had 9 tackles, sack & FF in AFC Champ Game. LB JAMES HARRISON – has 11 career sacks in postseason, tied for 5th most in NFL history.

TOM BRADY	is the all-time leader in many SB passing categories, including yards, TDs and completions. He is the only player in NFL history with 4 Super Bowl MVP Awards
SUPER BOWL PASSING YARDS	
TOM BRADY 2,071
Kurt Warner 1,156
SUPER BOWL TD PASSES	
TOM BRADY 15
Joe Montana 11
SUPER BOWL COMPLETIONS	
TOM BRADY 207
Peyton Manning 103



Weightlifter San Nicolas takes January honors

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH Angel San Nicolas kicked off 2018 with a first place finish in a Guam tournament, earning him the January Male Athlete of the Month honors given by the Northern Marianas Sports

Association.

San Nicolas ruled the men's 92kg division competition of the Micronesian Cup Championships, which was organized by the Guam Weightlifting Federation last month. He had lifts of 112 kgs (246.9 lbs) in the snatch and 142 kgs (313 lbs) in the clean & jerk for a total of 254 kgs

(559.9 lbs).

San Nicolas' lifts in Guam were a huge improvement from his bronze medal-winning lift in the 10th Pacific Mini Games that took place at the Epauto Adventist High School in Port Vila, Vanuatu last December.



San Nicolas

He improved his total lift by 3 kgs or 6.6 lbs or 2 kgs in the snatch or 4.4 lbs, and 2.2 kgs in the clean & jerk or 2.2 lbs.

His bronze in Port Vila was the

CNMI's first medal in the quadrennial sporting event organized by the Pacific Games Council since the Commonwealth claimed the baseball gold in the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

San Nicolas also won a silver medal in the 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational that was hosted, too by Guam.

With his triumphs in several tournaments, San Nicolas is one of the CNMI weightlifters who are expected to compete in a qualifying event for the Commonwealth team that would participate in the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap.

The qualifier is scheduled for Feb. 17 at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center in San Jose.

The one-day tournament is open to athletes in the 13 years old and up age group. It will begin with the weigh-ins at 10am, while the actual competition in each weight category will start 30 minutes later.

Latte Built Gym members are free to join the qualifier, while non-members will be charged a \$1 fee to enter the tournament. Registration forms are available at Latte Built or can be obtained by getting in touch with any CNMI Weightlifting Federation board member.

Djokovic undergoes surgery to cure troublesome elbow



BELGRADE—Novak Djokovic has undergone an elbow operation in an attempt to cure an injury that has troubled him for the past two years.



The 30-year-old Serb said he had agreed to surgery after last month's Australian Open when he was treated on court in losing to unseeded South Korean Chung Hyeon in the last 16.

"I agreed with my team that I would try different methods after I finish in Australia and a few days ago I accepted to do a small medical intervention on my elbow. It seems like I am on the good road now to full recovery,"

he posted on Instagram.

The 12-time Grand Slam champion had hoped the extended break he took last year might solve the problem but said he decided on more drastic action after still experiencing pain in Melbourne.

"I've been carrying this injury for the past two years, and during this time I've been seeing many doctors," said Djokovic, who before last month had not competed since losing at Wimbledon last year. "I took six months off last season hoping to come back fully recovered, but unfortunately I still felt pain."

"It's quite a journey this

Serbia's Novak Djokovic makes a backhand return to South Korea's Chung Hyeon during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

one, I have to say. I'm learning a lot and for that I'm grateful. I've always taken care of my body and looked for the most natural ways to heal, and my body has rewarded me with some incredible years on tour.

"I am super positive and excited to follow my recovery through so I can come back to the place I love the most. The court."

Serbia's former Davis Cup coach Bogdan Obradovic predicted Djokovic would make a full recovery.

"I am convinced that Djokovic can return stronger, he has overcome many problems in his career," said Obradovic, who led Serbia to their maiden title in the competition in 2010.

"He has made all the right moves—he took a break in an effort to avoid surgery, played at the Australian Open and when it didn't work, having the surgery was the only option. He is still hungry for success and what he needs to do now is be patient."

seconds after heading to the wrong direction on the way to the finish line and ended up timing in at 33:51.

KENTO

From Page 28

Jinju was the first out of the water and seventh overall after recording 35:12. Her mark in last weekend's race was faster than her 2017 winning time (34:58). Joining Jinju in the Top 3 in the women's field were Sophia Gauran (37:66) and the former's sister Jinie (41:19).

Seven other swimmers completed the three-course lap and the list included Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (35:03), Hessel Yntema (46:26), Taiyo Akimaru (39:38), Jon Turner (49:34), Emily Northrop (48:03), Manny Sitchon (58:10), and Mark Isip (1:02:10).

Meanwhile, in the two-loop course (about 2K), youth swimmer Wataru Kadokura was the first male and No. 1 overall finisher as he made it to the shore at the 33:50 mark. He was about a minute ahead of women's champion and fellow SSC member Kaithlynn Chavez, who lost a few

Adult swimmer Florence Antonio of Dolphin Club Saipan came in at third overall after checking in at 35:04 and was followed by Matthew Milo (36:22), Leo Wania (36:53), Mark Chavez (38:09.05), Savita Sikkel (38:09.07), Buboy Aguilar (40:33), John Moreno (44:04), Julia Alekseenko (46:08), and Chan Wang Jang (59:10).

In other results, Kaithlynn and Mark's sister, Julie Ann, was the top finisher in the one-loop race (nearly 1K) after completing the swim in 19:32. Marini Milo came in at second with her 20:19, while Jonathan Wilberscheid rounded out the Top 3 overall after registering 22:57. Other finishers in the division were Dolphin Club Saipan's Gemmilie Anne Eugenio (24:20) and Michael Hidalgo (24:28), and father and son Richard (25:02.70) and Moshe Sikkell (25:02.68).

SATO

From Page 28

gers, and walkers took part in the event—held in cooperation with Tan Siu Lin Foundation, TanHoldings, and the Triathlon Association of the CNMI—and proceeds were donated to the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Sato weaved his way through throngs of participants to complete the 5K race in 19:30, 20 seconds ahead of Agape Christian School student Wang Kai Ping (19:50). William Chen, Wang's teammate at Agape, was the third fastest runner at 20:31.

Tan came in fourth overall and was the top female runner at 20:37, six seconds ahead of Emily Northrop's 20:43, while Therize Millare came in at third at 20:50.

Leo Li and Jerlyn Castillo were the top age group win-

FAKE

From Page 28

draw, 4-4.

CTSI Petmalu opened a 3-0 halftime lead, as Britanny Wally, Louie Calayag, and Thaiphia Austria hit their target. However, CTSI Petmalu failed to keep the upper hand in the second half, while siblings Dai and Lillian Podziewski, and Joyce

helped bring ABCD FC back into the game. Dai drilled a pair of goals, while Lillian and Joyce had one each to force the deadlock. Wally posted the lone goal for CTSI Petmalu in the second half.

With CTSI Petmalu drawing ABCD FC, the former fell to No. 2 in the team standings (pending results of Sunday's triple-header) behind La Fab-

rica (2-0-0). ABCD FC was at fifth place with its 0-1-1 slate. Bruv (1-0-0), Kensington Hotel-Suplex City (1-0-0), and Islanders FC (0-0-2) completed the standings.

Islanders FC was playing ABCD FC last night, while the two other pairings in the division had La Fabrica battling Suplex City and CTSI Petmalu dueling Bruv.



ROSELYN B. MONROY
CTSI Petmalu and Betde players exchange high-fives before their game in the co-ed U12 division during the opening day of Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex late last month.

ners in the men's and women's with the two runners claiming the 13-19 division titles. Li posted 20:37, while Castillo had 21:33.

Eun Syu Hahn and Brittany Wally were the 13-19 men's and women's runners-up with the former crossing the finish line at 20:43 mark and latter at 23:18. David Cai was the third best in the division at 20:50, while Guinevere Borja duplicated the feat at 23:54.

Jim Maniago led the boys under 12 division finishers at 21:44, followed by Markus Toves' 23:36 and Anthony Bergancia's 24:28. In the girls division, Kaithlyn Chavez clinched the top honors with the best time of 25:24—almost 10 minutes ahead of Aoi Braxton's 33:27. Aoi's younger sister Akaya was third at 40:10.

Carl Aldan and Sarah Van de Wal ruled the men's and

women's 20-29 age group with the former registering 25:24 and the latter recording 24:33. Norman Tangha (29:26) and Maverick Ranola (33:14) joined Aldan in the podium, while Danin Nowlik (26:00) and Deenalyn Crook (34:02) completed the Top 3 in the distaff side.

Marlon Garde (23:54), Jace Fernandez (27:03), and Paquito Dacrepito (27:17) were the Top 3 placers in the male 30-39 age division, while Alyona Gersonde (34:03), former CNMI women's national tennis team member Kana Ai-kawa (34:48), and Baby Ben (37:32) were the Top 3 fastest in the women's category.

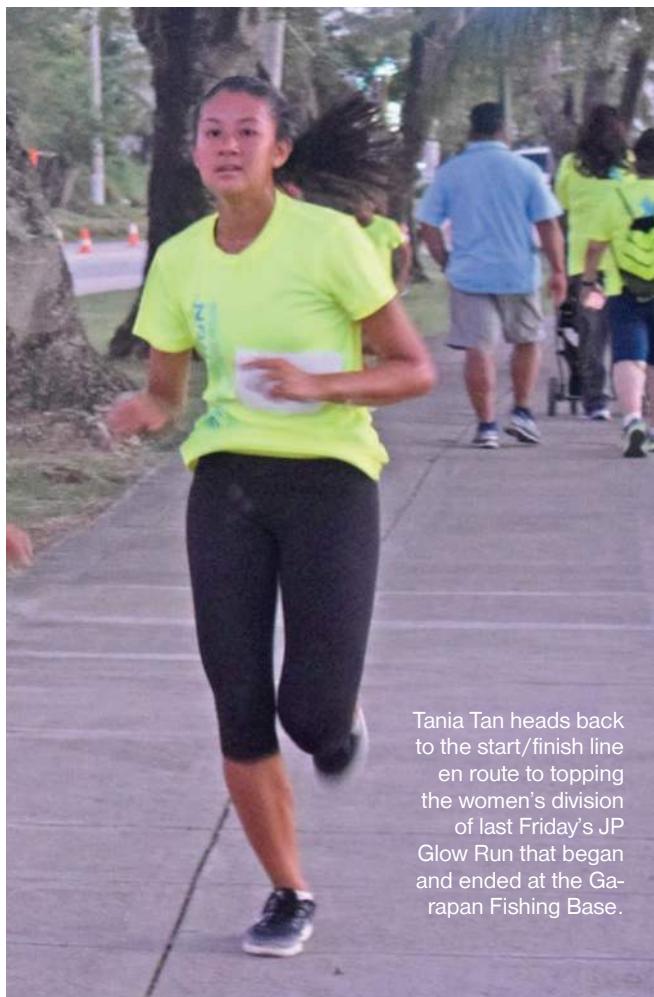
Veteran runner Ronald Vilafria has the best time in the 40-49 men's age group at 21:03, followed by Rommel Buenaflor at 22:48 and No. 3 Mamoru Kadokura (25:07). Chiharu Sato was the best in the women's division with her 25:06, while Akiko Miller (25:54) came in at second and Malou Carlos (30:08) was ranked third.

Rodel Zamudio and Lydia Tan reigned supreme in the men's and women's 50-59 age group with times of 22:34 and 28:17, respectively. Mark Isip (23:03) and Rene Gaviola (23:37) finished second and third behind Zamudio, while Amalia Harris (29:47) and Kazuko Sondheim (31:35) joined Tan at the women's podium in the same age group.

Rolly Verzon showed the way in the men's over 60 after recording 22:52, while Herman Pangelinan (30:55) and Das Krishnan (34:04) placed second and third, respectively. Fely Garcia (40:37), Jae Bun Na (40:58), and Flor Miranda (41:27) were the Top 3 finishers in the women's over 60 age group.

JP Glow Run In Memory of John 'JP' Pangelinan

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Tania Tan heads back to the start/finish line en route to topping the women's division of last Friday's JP Glow Run that began and ended at the Garapan Fishing Base.



Walkers and runner crowd the Beach Road pathway.



Traders Insurance's Malou Mendoza, left, enjoys the leisurely walk with her friends.



Rommel Buenaflor heads back to the finish line to complete the 5K run.



Some Public School System administration staff members pose for a photo with their friends and families before the race starts.



Mario Sablan and his friends take a short break from the run.



Green Meadow School students and their parents and teachers pose for a group photo after crossing the finish line.



A group of friends poses for a photo at the finish line.



Nuggets rally in
4th quarter to
stun Warriors

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Eagle way is similar
to Patriot way:
No egos

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28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Kosuke Sato and Tania Tan were the fastest finishers among the more than 1,500 that participated in the JP Glow Run held last Friday.

Sato and Tan were the overall men's and women's winners to lead 46 other individuals who finished in the Top 3 of the race that began and ended at the Garapan Fishing Base and commemorated the 10th death anniversary of former *Saipan Tribune* publisher John "JP" Pangelian.

A total of 1,534 runners, joggers,

See SATO on Page 26



**Sato, Tan
rule JP Glow Run**

JON PEREZ

Runners, joggers, and walkers head out to the course of the 5-kilometer JP Glow Run held last Friday. The race started and ended at the Garapan Fishing Base with a turnaround point at the Quartermaster Road.

Kento, Jinju win anew

Fake Madrid, CTSI Petmalu get solo lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fake Madrid and CTSI Petmalu are alone at the top spot of their respective divisions after prevailing in their games in Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

CTSI Petmalu took the solo lead in the co-ed U12 age group after downing Tinsel Toes, 4-1. Nolan Ngeawkl powered CTSI Petmalu to its second win in as many games after making a hat trick against Tinsel Toes (1-0-1 win-draw-loss record). Carvin Cruzat nailed the other goal for CTSI Petmalu.

Tinsel Toes' lone goal came from Markus Toves in the first half, which ended in a standoff, 1-1, after Ngeawkl got his first goal in that period. Ngeawkl then added two more in the second and Cruzat made it three in a row for CTSI Petmalu, while Tinsel Toes failed to counter.

Tinsel Toes was hoping to bounce back from its loss to CTSI Petmalu when it dualed Betde (1-0-1) yesterday, while the division leader



was going for win No. 3 versus Kanoa Ali'i (0-0-2) in the other co-ed U12 age group match last weekend.

In the co-ed U5, Fake Madrid improved to a 2-0-0 record and earned the solo No. 1 spot in the team standings following an 8-4 triumph over Betde United (1-0-1).

Kaden Church starred in Fake Madrid's victory over Betde United after knocking in four goals—two apiece in the first and second half. Rintaro Miyawaki backed him up, adding three goals—two in the last 20 minutes of the match—while Paulynn Joyce scored the other goal for the winning team. Betde United's three goals all came from Taka Borja, who had his hat trick in the second half.

Borja and his Betde United was playing Marianas United in yesterday's third game, while Fake Madrid was shooting for win No. 4 versus CNMI United in the fourth match.

Meanwhile, in the co-ed U18 division's lone game last Thursday, CTSI Petmalu and ABCD FC settled for a

See FAKE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru, left, and Jinju Thompson head to the finish line to complete the three-loop race in the 2018 Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim held last Saturday in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru and Jinju Thompson led the finishers in the 2018 Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim held last Saturday in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

Kento was the No. 1 overall finisher in the longest race of the day, completing the three-loop course (nearly three kilometers) in 32:00 for this third straight victory in the same event. Kento crossed the finish line less than a minute ahead of Jinnosuke Suzuki, who clocked in at 32:34 to beat his older brother Len-nosuke Suzuki (33:59). Christian Villacrusis and David Boyer, who timed in at 34:19 and 35:02, respectively, completed the Top 5 in the men's division.

In the women's division,

See KENTO on Page 26